



Jordan Times

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Swiss to aid PLO make coins

AMMAN (R) — Switzerland has offered to help produce Palestinian coins, stamps and passports, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy to the United Nations in Geneva said Monday. During an official visit to Switzerland in January, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat asked President Otto Stich for help in minting a future Palestinian currency, Nabil Ramlawi told Reuters. "Swiss officials informed us of the readiness of Switzerland to provide expertise and technical help in the fields of currency minting, stamps, Palestinian passports and identity cards as help in the phase of setting up a Palestinian state," Mr. Ramlawi said. The PLO also sought Swiss aid in setting up a future Palestinian monetary authority and training experts, PLO officials in Amman said. Israel and the PLO have been discussing economic ties during a five-year period of Palestinian self-rule before a final settlement is reached. Switzerland has pledged 60 million Swiss francs (\$41 million) of aid during five years of Palestinian self-rule, Mr. Ramlawi said.

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Egypt formally annuls ACC accord

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's parliament on Monday formally annulled participation in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which has been dormant since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. The 200-member Middle East states-run Middle East Economic Cooperation Council (MECC) was set up in 1978 by leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen. It called for promoting economic integration and a single Middle East market. Cooperation ceased, however, after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Jordan, Panama set up formal ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Panama Monday announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between them with immediate effect. The announcement was made in Amman and Panama City simultaneously. The two countries will exchange ambassadors in a date to be set later. The statement was signed on behalf of the Jordanian government in New York by Jordan's Permanent Representative at the U.N. Adnan Abu Odeh and his Panamanian counterpart Carlos Arosmina.

Unit off to Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — The last batch of the third battalion of the Jordanian peace keeping forces Monday left Amman for Croatia. The batch was sent off by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai and senior army officers.

Egypt reportedly departs Libyan

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has reportedly departs a Libyan citizen in connection with the disappearance of a foe of the Libyan regime almost two months ago, a Libyan dissident said Monday. Mansour Kikhaia, 62, a former Libyan foreign minister, vanished from his hotel Dec. 10 during a visit to Cairo. Libyan opposition figures and human rights advocates believe he was kidnapped by Libyan agents. Mohammad Gibril, spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, said Yusef Saleh Nega was reported last week because of the Kikhaia case. He also quoted contacts in Tripoli as saying Mr. Kikhaia was being held in the eastern Libyan region of Sirte.

Germany to ban Algerian activist

BONN (AFP) — The head of the exiled leadership of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Rabah Kebir, is to be banned from all political activity in Germany, the German foreign ministry announced Monday. The ban was being sought by the interior ministry of the regional state of North Rhine-Westphalia, where Mr. Kebir, who has requested political asylum, is resident, the ministry statement said.

Ghali calls Cyprus talks

NICOSIA (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has asked the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in divided Cyprus to begin talks in mid-February on a package of confidence building measures. "It is important that the modalities be worked out within two months at the most so that the confidence-building effect of this effort can be achieved," he said in a letter to Cyprus President Glafos Clerides released on Monday. He gave no precise date for the talks in Nicosia.

West inches towards air strikes on Serbs

Combined agency dispatches

BRUSSELS — European Union (EU) foreign ministers Monday called for the lifting of the Serb siege of Sarajevo by "all the means necessary, including the use of airpower." A joint statement issued by the 12 ministers said it would be up to the North Atlantic Council in concert with the U.N. secretary general to bring this about.

The EU, which expressed its "revulsion" at the shelling of civilians in the Bosnian capital, also said it supported efforts to place the town under U.N. protection.

"The aim should be to bring about the immediate lifting of the siege of Sarajevo, using all the means necessary including the use of air power," said the statement.

"The measures taken would be the first step in the implementation of the action plan of the European Union."

"The Council of the European Union reiterates its support for the efforts of the co-chairmen (Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg) to place the administration of Sarajevo under the authority of the United Nations."

In Brussels, a source close to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said NATO ambassadors will consider the situation in Sarajevo at their regular weekly meeting Wednesday, rather than call a special session.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton's national security advisers met Monday to con-

sider what action to take in response to the weekend shelling that killed 68 people in Sarajevo.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher also made a series of telephone calls to five foreign ministers, including those of France, Britain and Canada, three countries with large peacekeeping contingents in the Balkans.

Mr. Christopher talked with Douglas Hurd of Britain, Alain Juppe of France and Andre Quelette of Canada.

U.S. national security advisers meanwhile met while Mr. Clinton was in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Clinton has repeatedly warned that no actions would be ruled out, including air strikes, against Serb military positions if Bosnian Serbs continued to blockade Sarajevo and to shell the city.

Bosnian Serbs have agreed to negotiate a peace deal for Sarajevo separate from an overall settlement for Bosnia's 22-month-old civil war, peace envoy Lord Owen said against the backdrop of international outrage and calls for airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs besieging the capital.

The besieging Serb forces are being widely blamed internationally for the attack but they deny they fired the mortar bomb. The United Nations said it was not certain who fired, but added it had no evidence to support Serb allegations the Muslims shelled themselves to provoke international military intervention.

In Moscow, Russian govern-

ment officials and parliamentary leaders expressed strong reservations over proposals for air strikes on Serbian positions in Bosnia. One centrist leader, Nationalities Minister Sergei Shakhrai, said any escalation of the conflict could trigger a world war.

Saturday's atrocity in Sarajevo prompted a number of moves to focus on ways to bring peace to the city as Bosnia's ethnic rivals remained deadlocked on the overall peace process.

After talks during the night with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in the border town of Zvornik, peace envoy Owen, a Briton, told reporters: "It was an agreement to negotiate a U.N. administration and demilitarisation of Sarajevo separate from an overall peace settlement. They (the Bosnian Serbs), like us, would prefer a comprehensive peace settlement. That appears at the moment to be blocked."

Muslim insistence that besieging Serbs pull back their heavy weapons from the mountains overlooking Sarajevo scuppered a U.N. attempt to broker a ceasefire on Sunday.

Lord Owen said on Monday the next round of Bosnia peace talks in Geneva set for Thursday would discuss "confidence-building measures — hotlines, the exchange of personnel at headquarters — dealing with Sarajevo," he added: "Let's deal with one thing at a time and get Sarajevo settled."

Arafat and Peres seek to clinch deal in Cairo talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived here Monday for talks aimed at clinching a final deal to launch Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Arafat first headed for a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the presidential palace in the northern Cairo district of Helwan.

He flew in from Tunis with Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, and Ahmad Qawira, director of the PLO's economic department.

Mr. Peres arrived in the Egyptian capital later Monday, but an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said a meeting with Mr. Arafat had not yet been arranged.

"We still do not have a programme of meetings for Mr. Peres," he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Peres and senior army officials on Monday reviewed the details to be hammered out in Cairo by the two delegations, officials said.

PLO officials in Cairo said Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat would meet on Monday evening, but a source in Tunis said the meeting could take place on Tuesday.

Mr. Peres said as he left Israel with his staff that he was bringing firm positions and "tremendous" goodwill to the meeting.

"We haven't changed any of our positions. We are going with a tremendous amount of goodwill and we are not going to haggle," Peres told reporters at Ben-Gurion airport.

Environmental Minister Yossi Sarid, accompanying Mr. Peres, said: "There will be flexibility on both sides. Both have to come with new ideas, otherwise there is no use."

Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat held talks in Davos, Switzerland, last week on the delay of an Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The two planned to meet again in Cairo on Sunday or Monday but the PLO said on Sunday the Cairo meeting was off unless Mr. Peres was authorised to reach a final accord on security issues stalling the pull-out.

On Monday, the PLO ambassador in Cairo said Mr. Arafat was coming to Cairo on Monday evening to hold talks

4 Israeli soldiers killed, 3 wounded in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (Agencies) — Guerrillas killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded three in an ambush Monday in South Lebanon that drew retaliatory air and artillery strikes, security sources said.

A flareup in the south, the only active Arab-Israeli war-front, has been anticipated because the anniversaries of the assassinations of Shiite Muslim guerrilla leaders fall in February.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli fighter-bombers carried out three raids in 2½ hours against guerrillas in the Iqlim Al Tuffah region north of Israel's self-styled "security zone" shortly after the ambush.

There was no immediate word on casualties among the guerrillas. Nor was there comment from Israel on the ambush.

But the Israeli military command said in a statement that its jets attacked "Hizbollah

targets" and scored "accurate hits."

In the first strike at 1:30 p.m. (1130 GMT), four jets fired at least 10 rockets into the Lowweh bluffs, a stronghold of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, the security sources and witnesses said.

They said the area was shrouded in dust and smoke from the first airstrike when a second wave of four jets attacked guerrilla positions in the Mita bluffs. They returned later to bombard nearby Jabal Safi.

From the market town of Nabatieh, squeezed between Israeli-held territory and Iqlim Al Tuffah, reporters could see guerrillas firing anti-aircraft weapons against the Israeli jets. But no hits were observed.

A woman and her four children were wounded when guerrillas rained Katyusha rockets on Marjayoun, headquarters for the Israeli army, and elsewhere in Israel's self-

declared "security zone." The flare-up began when Hizbollah ambushed an Israeli army patrol with anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons on a road inside the zone, killing four soldiers, according to security sources.

The dead were the Israeli army's first fatalities of the year in Lebanon and its biggest loss since eight soldiers were killed by Hizbollah last August.

A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah's army wing, told AFP in Beirut that its guerrillas destroyed an Israeli Merkava tank, killing or wounding an unspecified number of Israeli soldiers.

Israeli helicopters later flew over the area, apparently to pick up the casualties.

The sources said three Israelis were killed instantly and four were wounded. One of the wounded died later.

The Israeli fatalities were

Electronic occupation

An Israeli sapper follows an explosive-clearing robot, searching for a bomb near an Israeli army watchpost in Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Israeli-Palestinian confrontations left two Palestinians dead and six injured since Saturday. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were in Cairo on Monday in a bid to work out a final deal to launch Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho (see story below)



AFP photo

'Abu Nidal behind Maaytah murder'

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Maaytah was gunned down by followers of the Abu Nidal group, the most radical Palestinian faction, investigations by the Lebanese government have concluded, diplomatic sources said Monday.

Agency reports from Beirut, quoting security sources, said that the Lebanese police had arrested a Palestinian who confessed that he killed Mr. Maaytah 10 days ago. The report from Beirut said that the suspect belonged to a "Palestinian guerrilla faction," but did not name the group.

Diplomatic sources in Amman confirmed that there were two arrests made in connection with the case in Lebanon and that the suspects were members of the Abu Nidal group.

Jordanian officials con-

tacted by the Jordan Times said the Kingdom had not received an official notification from the Lebanese government.

One source close to the case, however, said that Jordan had "received indications from the Lebanese government that implicated the Abu Nidal group."

Reuters news agency, in a report from Beirut, quoted a judicial source as saying that two Palestinians were arrested on Saturday in connection with the case.

The judicial source did not confirm that a suspect had confessed, but said that "investigations had reached an advanced stage since the arrests," Reuters said.

Asked to confirm the report, another senior Jordanian official, said he believed the report was "accurate." He refused to elaborate.

A gunman shot dead Mr.

(Continued on page 5)

Aden and Sanaa exchange charges over plane seizure

SANAA (R) — North and South Yemen were locked on Monday in a dispute over who controls the unified state's airspace after an Aden-bound cargo plane was seized in the north in an incident described by the south as air piracy.

Diplomats said the incident underlined persistent tensions between formerly Marxist South Yemen and the conservative North Yemen that have threatened a 1990 merger between them, despite an agreement by the two to settle their differences by Thursday.

A British-owned Boeing 707 headed from London to Aden was seized on Sunday at an airport in the former North Yemen, Sanaa said it was carrying a large quantity of batteries for military equipment and communications sets and had entered the country illegally.

But Andy King, director of the British company Ana Aviation, said Sunday his company's plane was carrying torch batteries and other commercial supplies including pharmaceuticals and was the victim of "an act of air piracy."

An Aden airport official said on Sunday night the plane was "intercepted in Hodeida airspace and forced to land at

Hodeida airport although it was in an authorised normal flight."

He described the interception as "an act of piracy," and said Aden airport has been "responsible for aviation and flight movement in the Yemen flight zone," since the 1990 merger of the north and south.

The Civil Aviation Authority in Sanaa challenged his statement, saying it was the only centre responsible for issuing air cargo permission.

Mr. King and the Aden airport official said the plane was chartered by the southern airline Alyemda. Aviation authorities in Sanaa and Hodeida airports were informed in advance the plane was authorised to land at Aden airport and that it was carrying batteries and communications sets, the officials said.

"Despite the prior notification, the command of the air force and air defence in Sanaa forced the plane to land at Hodeida airport, stormed it, detained its crew and confiscated its shipment," the Aden airport official said.

"Responsible authorities in the Civil Aviation Authority

(Continued on page 5)

Egyptian extremists renew threat

CAIRO (AP) — Extremists on Monday renewed their threat against foreigners and claimed responsibility for the shooting death of a high-ranking police officer in southern Egypt. The Al Gamaa Al Islamiya said it killed Brigadier Omar Mustafa in Assiut on Sunday to avenge a police raid Feb. 1 on the outskirts of Cairo in which seven suspected radicals were killed. The group again urged tourists and foreign investors to leave, saying this was their "last ultimatum." Unlike the earlier threat, the new warning made clear it was not only talking about visitors from the West but "Arabs or any other nationality." The statements came in faxes to a Western news agency in Cairo. There was no way to authenticate them. No attack on foreigners has been reported since the threat Feb. 2 urged tourists and foreign investors to leave or risk getting caught in rising violence. While the warnings to foreigners were similar to those issued by Algerian radicals, the violence in Egypt has been far less intense. At least 27 foreigners have been killed in direct attacks in Algeria.

Cabinet to endorse sales tax draft law

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Ministers is today expected to endorse a controversial draft law introducing sales tax and send it to Parliament after its final version was approved by the Economic Consultative Council (ECC), official sources said Monday.

Finance Minister Sami Gammo, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the committee, which had been studying the viewpoints of the private sector on the tax, endorsed the draft law during a meeting Monday.

Other officials said the government wanted to send the draft to Parliament as soon as possible so that the tax could go into effect as of March 1, the extended deadline for the introduction of the levy as stipulated in Jordan's economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The draft is expected to be sent to the legislature as an emergency law that would take precedence in the lawmakers' debate because of the pressing need to introduce the tax.

Fierce opposition is expected from many deputies in Parliament who reject the IMF programme as a whole as well as those who have been lobbied by the business community.

However, there cannot be any escape from the tax since

any further delay in introducing it could seriously hamper the Kingdom's efforts to reschedule its foreign debts.

An IMF certification that Jordan is implementing an economic restructuring programme and is abiding by the programme's provisions is essential before creditors agree to open rescheduling talks.

Participating in the discussions that led the finalisation of the draft law were representatives of the various interest groups such as the chambers of industries and commerce as well as the banking sector.

Mr. Gammo said the sales tax law was part of a comprehensive plan to revamp the taxation structure in Jordan and that the government would be introducing the plan later this year.

He described the draft as progressive, pointing out that existing legislation allowed up to 60 per cent levy while the new piece of legislation had brought it down to 20 per cent and streamlined the ambiguities in the previous law.

According to government sources, the Council of Ministers felt that the main problem that hampered the introduction of the law was adverse comments by economists and businessmen judging it before studying it closely.

"No one actually studied it well and compared it with the

(Continued on page 5)

ANZ Grindlays Bank

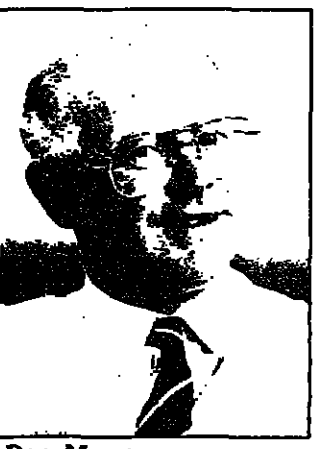
Chief executive ANZ Bank reaffirms commitment to Jordan

AMMAN — Don Mercer, the chief executive of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group arrives in Amman today, Feb. 8, 1994, for a four-day visit to Jordan as part of a tour of the bank's operations in the Middle East.

The group's commercial banking presence in Jordan and the rest of the Middle East, operated through ANZ Grindlays Bank is well established and contributes strongly to the bank's financial performance. Mr. Mercer's visit demonstrates ANZ's commitment to the market.

David Smith, regional general manager, Middle East said: "ANZ Grindlays has an excellent knowledge of the local business market and has been established in Jordan for nearly 70 years through its 14 branch network. Mr. Mercer's meetings will give him the opportunity to learn more about the economic development of the country and our Middle East operations. He will also meet with senior government officials and members of the bank's staff."

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group is one of



Don Mercer

Australia's leading banks and features among the world's top 100 banks. It has a strong international representation with over 2,100 points of representation in over 40 countries. Total assets exceed Australian dollars (AUD) 99 billion and operating profits for the year to Sept. 30, 1993, exceeded AUD 450 million.

Mr. Mercer's programme will include a reception to be hosted by ANZ Grindlays General Manager for Jordan Adnan Sallakh and Mrs. Sallakh.

Dr. Nidal Hamad, F.A.C.C.

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Support for peace wanes as unrest mounts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians were jubilant at the prospect of better lives when the peace process was announced, but quite five months later, they're again eager to attack Israeli targets and challenge Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

The bitter mood in the Israeli-occupied territories turned blacker Sunday when bickering between Israeli politicians and top generals threatened further delays in achieving Palestinian autonomy.

"Peace is not a theory, it's something that ordinary people need to touch," said Raji Sourani, a lawyer who heads the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law.

There have been some changes since the accord between Israel and the PLO was signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

Palestinians could openly raise their flag, an act that used to draw Israeli gunfire. Over 700 Palestinians have been released from Israeli jails and a few streets sealed with barrels to prevent stone-throwing have been opened.

But under the original plan, the Israeli army was a start

withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank area around Jericho on Dec. 13 and finish withdrawing by April 13. Palestinians were to police the streets and civilian authorities were to assume responsibility for taxation, housing and utilities.

There are no deadlines now. Instead, the process is in Israeli hands. And Israeli officials have noticed a sharp shift in Palestinian attitudes.

"The Palestinian population woke up," an officer responsible for undercover operations told the weekly Al Hamishmar. He could not be identified due to army regulations. "They thought they would experience a new reality. They know this is not true. So they are resuming the intifada," he added.

The numbers tell why. Since the agreement was signed, 62 Palestinians have died in clashes with Israelis, including six children under the age of 16. In the same period 20 Israeli soldiers and civilians have been killed.

Thousands of Palestinians remain behind bars, some for acts like raising the flag that are no longer illegal. Arrests continue. Over 50,000 Arabs lost jobs in Israel as a security

measure to try to minimise attacks, and more work permits are being confiscated at random.

Israeli subjects entire neighbourhoods to power cuts if some residents don't pay bills. Land confiscations have risen sharply, and house demolitions or disruptive searches continue.

Israeli officials have said that the number of Israeli troops in the occupied lands is at one of its highest levels ever. The Israeli human rights group B'tselem has noted a marked rise in the use of undercover operatives.

Israeli officials said such actions are necessary to fight the small cells of peace opponents still organising attacks.

"Alongside the preparations that an agreement will be signed... the pursuit of all perpetrators of terror will continue," Ehud Barak, the chief-of-staff, said after a PLO underground figure was killed by an undercover squad last week.

Gaza called a three-day strike to protest the killing. Support for the peace process is especially weak among Gaza's 800,000 residents, who are crowded into shantytowns. Gazans expected Israel to



WAY OF LIFE: Palestinian boys throw stones at Israeli soldiers guarding a watch post in the Jabalia refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

act differently and the PLO to exert pressure to stop the worst effects of the occupation. Neither happened.

"They are sick and tired of occupation, and that is what I call explosive material," said Mr. Sourani.

A look in figures at what's behind Palestinian discontent since the PLO-Israeli peace treaty was signed Sept. 13, 1993 (the first figure comes from Palestinian sources, the second from Israeli sources) N.A. means not available:

40 Palestinians killed in Gaza: 41; 23
Palestinian children (under 16) killed: 6; n.a.
Palestinians injured: 616; 201

Houses demolished in occupied lands: 63; 2

Land confiscated from Palestinians: 13,346 acres (or 5,400 hectares): n.a.
Palestinians in jail: 14,000; 7,591

Israelis killed: 20; 20
Israeli soldiers injured: n.a.;

151 Israeli civilians injured: n.a.; 42

Sources: Palestinian figures: The Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, the Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre, and B'tselem, the Israeli human rights organisation.

Israeli figures: The Israeli military spokesman's office, the Israeli prison authority. Prisoner figures include 4,091 Palestinians held by army and 3,500 held by prison authority.

Hilton closes in Algeria; group claims 70 rivals killed

ALGIERS (AP) — The Hilton Hotel closed Sunday for an indefinite period, the latest victim of a violent campaign against foreigners by Islamic fighters.

The group that threatened expatriates claimed it killed 70 members of a rival armed movement.

The Hilton, which opened in August, closed its doors at noon, six days after a French cameraman was shot to death in the Casbah and his Australian colleague seriously wounded.

Twenty-seven foreigners have been killed since late September, most of them after a Nov. 30 deadline for foreigners to leave set by the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical of the fighting movements trying to topple the military-backed government.

A statement signed by the Armed Islamic Group, received Sunday by the French

news agency Agence France Presse, said it killed 70 members of the Armed Islamic Movement, considered an umbrella group for numerous fighting cells.

The statement, dated Feb. 5, could not be authenticated. It gave no date for the "executions," which followed a "verdict of the sharia." It was faxed to the news agency and signed from "the state of the Islamic caliphate in Algeria."

There was no mention in official statements from Algerian authorities to signal the killings. Security forces said Sunday that they had killed 13 rebels from Tuesday to Thursday in scattered parts of the country.

The Armed Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of three French consular employees in October and some other killings.

Thousands of foreigners have fled since the Nov. 30

deadline. Western embassies have reduced their staff and taken special precautions. The Danish embassy said last week it was transferring its functions to Tunisia.

The Armed Islamic Group statement, which was authentic, would signal that divisions within the armed movement are at the point of no return. It would render even more difficult efforts by Algerian authorities to end two years of violence through dialogue with Muslim fundamentalists.

Some 3,000 people have been killed since the army cancelled January 1992 parliamentary elections to thwart a victory by the Islamic Salvation Front.

Officials have said that "positive contacts" with Islamic Salvation Front representatives are underway.

The Armed Islamic Group has in the past warned against

dialogue, threatening "the worst of deaths" to anyone seeking reconciliation.

The movement is considered close to the Islamic Salvation Front, which has said it is opposed to targeting foreigners.

The statement castigated the chief of the Armed Islamic Movement, Said Mekhloufi, a lieutenant who deserted from the Algerian army, as a "traitor" and "agent of the government." It said Mr. Mekhloufi's group was trying to bring down the Armed Islamic Group in a "plot that coincides with manoeuvres around what is being called dialogue, which we have warned against and which has become a concrete reality."

Islamic Salvation Front officials in exile have in the past dismissed as not serious in-fighting among the armed groups while admitting differences exist.

20 held in attack on Rafsanjani — report

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian authorities have arrested more than 20 people in last week's alleged assassination attempt against President Hashemi Rafsanjani, a newspaper reported Monday.

Iran's information minister, Ali Fallahian, accused Koroush Nik Akhtar and his alleged accomplices of being part of "a clandestine terrorist group," according to the newspaper, Hamshahri.

Mr. Fallahian did not identify the group. Mr. Rafsanjani on Friday suggested the United States and the West were behind the shooting.

Authorities have accused Mr. Akhtar of firing several shots last Tuesday as Mr. Rafsanjani addressed a crowd at the shrine of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini outside Tehran to mark the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Mr. Fallahian claimed members of Mr. Akhtar's group met to discuss their plans on the night prior to the assassination attempt, Hamshahri said. Some Iranians doubt the official version of the shooting, claiming it was stage-managed to boost Mr. Rafsanjani's image at a time when his government is mired in crisis.

Mr. Rafsanjani has come in for worsening criticism in recent months for his failure to revive Iran's moribund economy and improve the living conditions of the country's 60 million people, most of whom live below the poverty line.

With oil prices at a five-year low and Iran's foreign debts estimated at \$30 billion, the country's economic problems seem to be coming to a head.

There have been reports of unrest in many Iranian cities over economic conditions in the past few years.

Riots erupted last Tuesday in the southeastern city of Zahedan where demonstrators clashed with security forces, broke shop windows and burned the Iranian flag. News

reports said the unrest was sparked by reports that authorities had demolished a mosque of the Sunni Muslim minority in the northern city of Mashhad. Reports about the demolition of the mosque were denied by local papers.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who was elected to a second four-year term last August, has been among the country's top leaders since the revolution. He has reportedly survived several assassination attempts.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Sunday the "aborted attempt on the life of the president" was a plot of "Satanic powers" to eliminate Iranian spiritual leaders.

Ayatollah Khamenei was speaking at the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic. Mr. Rafsanjani was addressing tens of thousands of followers on Tuesday at the start of 10 days of celebration marking the 15th anniversary of the Iranian revolution when five pistol shots were heard.

Witnesses at the time described the shots as faint and probably fired from a small-calibre pistol.

They said the origin of the shots was more than 50 metres from the platform. At least one man was seen being hustled away by security men.

IRNA quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as describing the incident as an abortive assassination attempt and the latest example of plots of Satanic powers to physically eliminate Iranian religious leaders.

"They attempted to strip the Muslim Nation of one of the prominent, efficient and devoted personalities of the Islamic republic, our beloved president," Ayatollah Khamenei said of Mr. Rafsanjani, a cleric himself with the rank of Hajatolislam.

"But thank God this time they were frustrated as in many of their previous plots and treasons," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Killing of witness raises fear among Egyptians

ARAB AL HASWA, Egypt (AP) — The elegantly framed photograph on Sayed Yehia's wall showed him shaking hands with Egypt's top law enforcement official. The happy scene may have cost the 47-year-old automobile dealer his life.

The picture of Mr. Yehia was splashed across newspaper front pages after he captured a suspect in the attempted murder of Prime Minister Atef Sedki. On Friday, Mr. Yehia was shot to death before he could testify at the man's trial.

The slaying raised questions about the government's protection of witnesses and will increase fears among Egyptians already hesitant to get involved in the battle between the government and Islamic radicals.

"We are the ones who stood up to terrorism and we are hit by it now," said Mohammad, Mr. Yehia's younger brother. "Our brother Kamal helped in the arrest, and now we are wondering who is next."

Sayed Yehia was to testify

Saturday in the trial of Salah Saleman and 14 other suspected militants for the November car bombing aimed at Dr. Sedki. Instead he was buried in this village 40 kilometres north of Cairo.

On Friday night, three suspected militants sprayed Mr. Yehia's auto showroom with automatic rifle fire, killing him along with a customer, an employee and a private guard. A policeman friend visiting Mr. Yehia was shot in the leg.

After Mr. Yehia's funeral Saturday, friends and family complained the government failed to protect him. The Interior Ministry did not issue Mr. Yehia a promised sub-machine gun until almost two weeks after the arrest and guards sent to protect him disappeared after 24 hours, family members said.

Magda, Mr. Yehia's sister, picked up the slain man's one-year-old son and wailed: "This is his baby. The government could not protect the father. After he was killed all the

police came and the armoured cars, but it was too late."

No Interior Ministry spokesman was available for comment. The daily Al Gomhuriya quoted one official as saying undercover guards had been protecting Mr. Yehia. But he added complete protection was impossible and complained that Mr. Yehia endangered himself by keeping his car agency open too late.

Mr. Yehia, a father of four, got involved in the case when he sold the auto later used in the car-bombing. Prime Minister Sedki escaped injury but an 11-year-old girl bystander was killed.

Mr. Yehia tried to arrest the car's buyer, identified as Saleman, when he came back to haggle about money still owed. The man fled, but Mr. Yehia caught him after an 18-kilometre chase in a car.

Mr. Yehia was given a 40,000 Egyptian pound (\$11,000) reward, had his picture taken with Interior Minister Hassan Al Afi, and was

told he would get protection.

His heroism got much publicity as part of the government's campaign to convince the public to inform on extremists. Gen. Alfi praised Yehia and his brother, telling the Al Akhbar newspaper: "If every one bravely resisted as they have done, it would be the end of terrorism."

Nearly 300 people have been killed in the militants' campaign to displace the secular government with Islamic rule. But many Egyptians fear the militants or see themselves as outsiders in a battle between the extremists and the government.

A cousin, Amir, said people would now be even more afraid to give information to police. Soldiers sent to guard Mr. Yehia's showroom after the slaying nodded in agreement.

"Nobody will dare open their mouths," the brother Mohammad said. "Maybe I and my family will leave the village."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Chateau Des Oliviers
17:50 News in French
18:15 Le Cirque Mondial
18:30 News in Hebrew
18:45 News in Arabic
19:00 The Respected Family
19:15 Mann And Machine
19:30 News in English
19:45 The Cape Rebel
20:10 Night Court

PRAYER TIMES

05:30 Fair (Sunrise)
07:45 Duhr
14:51 Asr
17:18 Maghreb
18:37 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will drop, clouds will build up, and rain will fall with winds becoming westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be cloudy with northerly moderate winds becoming southerly, and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. 7/14
Aqaba 11/22
Djessra 4/18
Jordan Valley 12/21

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Rafeh Zaitoun 886685
Dr. Jihed Zureb 881148
Dr. Bahjat Badr 649362
Dr. Farouq Nour 786680
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 786336
Al Asana pharmacy 67025
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Haji pharmacy 847632

URJID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hiti 279773
Alkud pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Fawzi Hamdallah 903644

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khalid Maternity J. Amn 642816
Abdali Maternity J. Amn 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhe, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiati 664171/4
Shamsiati Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushar Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Islamic, Al-Mubajir 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 77511/26
Army, Marka 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999090
IRBID:
Princess Banaa Hospital (02)73555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72775

Ibn Al Nafata Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

03:55 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:55 Damascus (RJ)
09:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:25 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:35 London (RJ)
16:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:55 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
03:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
16:45 Rome (AZ)
18:05 Paris, Beirut (AF)
19:45 Beirut (ME)
20:30 Aden (YV)
09:30 Bucharest (RO)
01:15 Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:35 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:05 London (RJ)
12:45 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Larance (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Colombo, Singapore (RJ)
22:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:50 Vienna (OS)
17:45 Dubai (AC)
21:00 Aden (YV)
01:30 Bucharest (RO)
02:15 Amsterdam (KL)

Apple 650/50
Banana (Mukammal) 60
Cabbage 50/30
Carrot 100/20
Cauliflower 100/60
Clementine 250/200
Cucumbers (large) 140/90
Cucumbers (small) 250/150
Eggplant 100/70
Garlic 150/100
Grape Fruit 220/60
Green beans 700/50
Lemon 170/100
Marrow (large) 140/80
Marrow (small) 250/150
Olives (green) 200/200
Orange 420/100
Onion (dry) 350/150
Onion (green) 200/150
Pepper (red) 280/200
Pepper (green) 250/200
Potato 120/70
Radish 150/100
Spinach 120/60
String beans 640/500



House condemns Serbian attacks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Monday issued a statement strongly condemning the continued Serbian attacks on the Muslim population of Bosnia and appealed to international organisations, parliaments, the United Nations and human rights groups to help put an end to crimes directed at civilians.

Following is the statement: "The barbaric and painful massacre of our brothers in the city of Sarajevo caused by Serbian shelling that killed and wounded hundreds of defenceless civilians, including children, women and elderly people, is but one more link in a long chain of barbaric acts of aggression against innocent Muslims."

"This attack came while the international community is keeping silent and sufficing itself with mere decisions which offer only lip service to the Bosnian people."

"In contrast, the world witnesses the issuance of a spate of United Nations resolutions that are promptly implemented against the Arab people of Iraq, Somalia and Libya."

"The Lower House of Parliament in Jordan, which has been deeply shaken by the massacre in Sarajevo, appeals to those with a genuine conscience in various nations and to world parliaments, the U.N. Security Council and human rights organisations to help stop such crimes and the shedding of innocent people's blood, and to guarantee security for the people of Bosnia whose free will and independence should be respected."

"We call on the world community to severely punish the aggressor Serbs and to promptly lift a siege imposed on Sarajevo and the other Muslim cities in Bosnia."

"We also call on the world community to supply the Bosnians with weapons for self-defence as well as medicine and food."

"We call also for an end to an international ban on weapons supplied to Bosnia to enable the country to repel aggression."

Jordan asks Australia to strengthen role in Kingdom's meat, livestock market

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Talks between the delegation of the Western Australian Ministry of Commerce and Trade, Jordanian businesspersons and counterparts from the public sector Monday first focused on a request by Jordanian officials that Australia expand its imports of phosphate from the Kingdom.

The request was prompted by the need to help adjust the current trade imbalance between the two countries, which at present amounts to \$45 to \$50 million, according to Marwan Awad, the secretary-general of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The second major focus of the talks was the Australian's efforts to consolidate and strengthen their already considerable role in Jordan's meat and livestock market.

According to Rudi Ibrahim, the minister of supply, there are currently 120,000 to 120,000 head of Australian livestock in Jordan.

The Australian delegation, headed by Western Australia Deputy Premier and Minister of Commerce Hendy Cowan, Monday visited the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Supply, and the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Awad told the delegation that "there is a huge trade deficit between the two countries, and I don't think we can close our eyes to that. It is very important in our view to increase phosphate exports to Australia."

Current exports of Jordanian phosphate to Australia amount to 200,000 tonnes a year, out of an export total of 7 million per year.

Mr. Cowan responded favourably, "Western Australia is a significant user of phosphate and potash fertilisers, and our internal production of these chemicals is limited. Therefore, there is an opportunity to competitively sell your products there," he said.

Mr. Cowan said that his ministry would approach private businesspeople in Western Australia to look into the matter.

Members of the Australian team stressed that Western Australia's commercial relationship with Jordan was a vital one.

"90 per cent of Jordan's exports to Australia find their way to Western Australia. And with a domestic market of only 1.7 million people, we depend on exports. The Middle East market represents to us nearly \$1 billion yearly of business."

Western Australia's main industry, besides herding and agriculture, is mining. It produces 37 per cent of the world's diamonds, 10 per cent of its gold, and 12 per cent of its iron ore, according to delegation members.

They stressed that "a significant issue for us are our exports to Jordan of live sheep," adding that Australian livestock businesses had completed work on breeding a herd of livestock "specifically bred for the Middle East market. These sheep are not saleable in Australia and we have worked



Minister of Supply Rudi Ibrahim (third from right) Monday holds talks with a Western Australia delegation headed by Hendy Cowan, deputy premier and minister of commerce (second from left) (Petra photo)

very hard to breed them. This trade is vital for us and we don't want to see it lost."

Mr. Awad replied that he was certainly ready to encourage imports of the livestock from Australia.

Officials at the Ministry of Supply told the delegation that they were concerned about the current prices Australian shipping merchants were charging to ship livestock to Jordan, which they described as excessive.

They suggested allowing Jordanian shippers to compete

for the business to cut down the rates through competition, or opening a special direct shipping line to transport the livestock.

One Australian representative told officials at the Ministry of Supply that "there is a strong possibility with the peace process for Jordan to become a large re-exporter of our products. We see an opportunity for livestock to be shipped here, slaughtered here, processed and then re-exported. There is also an

opportunity for us to come and build slaughterhouses and new processing facilities here."

Mr. Cowan said that a number of Australian companies were interested in building such facilities, and were already bidding for contracts to build slaughterhouses in the Aqaba Free Zone and Amman Municipality, where, said one delegation member, "the present slaughterhouse is a very poor facility."

The Australian team left Jordan Monday evening.



REVIEWING MILITARY EDUCATION: Education Minister Khaled Al Omari (right) Monday meets with the commander of the People's Army, Dr. Omari called for activating the military education programme which is taught at schools around the Kingdom in cooperation with the People's Army command. He said the ministry, through its Student Activities Department,

was trying to amend the programme to make it compatible to students' desires and interests. The programme, which was launched three years ago, is now implemented within one week instead of two weeks, the minister said. He said the ministry is currently planning to hold productive programmes for students during the summer holiday (Petra photo)

CARE Australia to finance development projects in south

AMMAN (J.T.) — CARE Australia Monday signed six agreements with voluntary and charitable organisations to help them finance development projects in the Tafleh, Maran and Karak govern-

Hall. She said in the future CARE plans to fund personnel training and feasibility studies on economic projects for the poor regions.

CARE is a humanitarian, non-profit secular organisation concerned with emergency assistance to people in need and local community development in the spirit of self-help.

For the past two years, CARE Australia has been active in emergency relief projects for Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and Mauritania through its regional office located in Amman, according to a CARE office statement.

The statement said that CARE has recently become involved in small, local community development projects in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and hopes to further expand its

activities. Abdul Rahim Salam, deputy secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development, attended the signing of the agreements, and later said that the ministry was eager to cooperate closely with international organisations and local voluntary groups to promote community development and help the needy.

He voiced appreciation to CARE Australia for its drive to help the poor families in Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, CARE said that it recently constructed a canal network in Zai, near Salt, at a cost of JD 10,000 and donated JD 15,000 to the displaced Bosnian families living in Amman and JD 10,000 to the Lebanese families whose property was damaged in Israeli raids.

Aqaba palm forest creates 25 jobs

AMMAN (Petra) — The palm tree forest development project in Aqaba, begun in 1992 by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), has created jobs for three agricultural engineers and 22 farmhands, according to a QAF statement.

When QAF undertook to develop the 1,500 dunum forest area for a period of 30 years, its aim was to grow dates which provide nutritional food, to create jobs for local citizens and also expand the green areas in the Aqaba region, said the statement.

QAF has plans to plant 27,000 palm trees in the forest which would produce an estimated 500 tonnes of dates annually, according to the statement.

To date nearly half (700 dunums) of the area involved is planted with date palms.

In addition to these trees, which came from Tunisia, Egypt, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, QAF said it has planted 1,466 citrus trees there as well.

The project has been funded by the United Nations Development Programme

Archaeology conference to be held in Turin in '94

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan Monday said the next International Conference on the Archaeology of Jordan will be held in the Italian city of Turin in 1995.

Archaeologists, historians and other experts from different countries will take part in the conference which is usually held every three years, said Dr. Adwan following a meeting with Italian ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini.

At the meeting, the two officials discussed coordinating Italian and Jordanian efforts to market Jordan's tourist attractions in Italy.

They also reviewed the contributions by the Italian government and specialised institutions to the archaeological excavations and the restoration of archaeological sites in Jordan, said the minister.

In addition, he said the terms of a protocol for the establishment of a Jordanian-Italian archaeology Institute will soon be signed by both countries.

The institute is to be headquartered in Amman and financed jointly by both governments, said Dr. Adwan.

According to Dr. Adwan, discussions with Mr. Bettini



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan (right) Monday meets with Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini (Petra photo)

also covered prospects for increasing Italian assistance to Jordan, especially to the mosaics school in Madaba and

the archaeological excavations under way in Jerash and Petra.

Mr. Bettini extended an official invitation to Dr. Adwan to visit Italy and attend the opening of the International Tourism Conference in Milan.

Police search for couple in stabbing of elderly man

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ramtha police are searching for a couple who Sunday allegedly stabbed a 60-year-old man, tied him up, stole JD 5,000 from him and disappeared, police reports said.

The victim, a sheep merchant, identified only as N.M.S., told police he frequently travelled with the couple to Amman and he always carried large sums of money on him.

Preliminary investigations by police indicate that N.M.S. went to the couple's house Sunday to pick the man and woman up to go to Amman to get some paper work done. There, said police reports, the elderly man was stabbed

with a knife by the husband. N.M.S. fell to the floor and the man and his wife tied him with a rope, placed a piece of cloth in his mouth and fled the scene.

The victim was discovered later by his 35-year-old son who told police he was passing by the couple's house and heard moaning. The son said he checked through the window and saw his father tied up on the floor.

He said he called his brothers and together they broke down the door and rescued their father.

N.M.S. was taken to Ramtha Military Hospital where he was reported in fair condition. Police said the couple had rented the house they were living in, and that they dis-

appeared after the attack on the elderly man.

Child dies in car accident

A six-year-old child Sunday was killed in Sweifeh when the driver of the car was at fault for not yielding to pedestrians. Khadijeh is the third child to die in a traffic accident since the beginning of February.

A seven-year-old Zaqra boy killed when he was struck by a speeding car on Feb. 1.

A day later an eight-year-old girl was killed in Sweifeh when the school bus she was riding ran over her after dropping her off near her home.

Two other children Sunday were struck by cars in separate accidents.

and was listed in critical condition.

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Two other children Sunday were struck by cars in separate accidents.

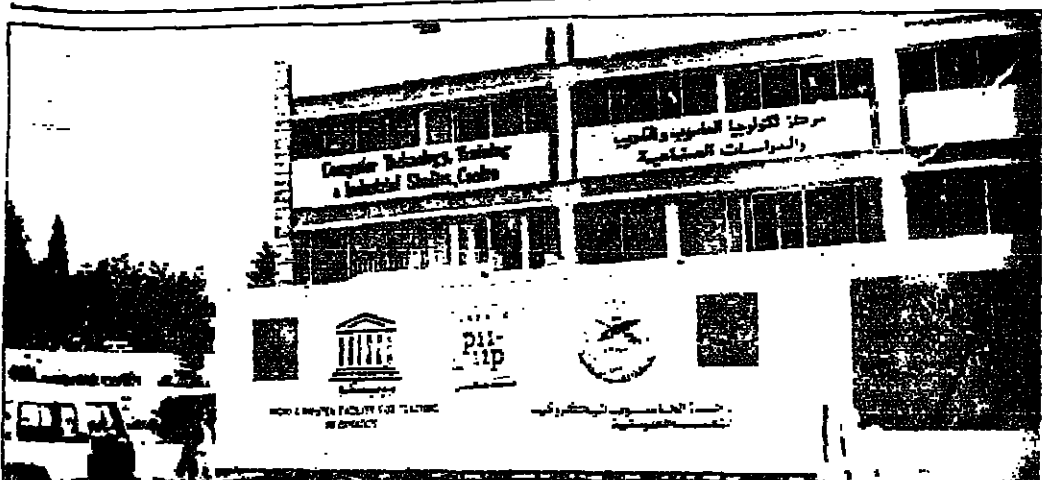
19-year-old stabbed to death

A 20-year-old Baqaa male was detained by police after he confessed to killing a 19-year-old male in Baqaa Sunday evening, police reports said.

The suspect, identified as S.M.A., told police he stabbed H.K.S. following an argument between the two.

The victim was taken to Jordan University Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the suspect first resisted arrest and escaped. But later he surrendered after police discovered the weapon (a switch blade) allegedly used in the crime.



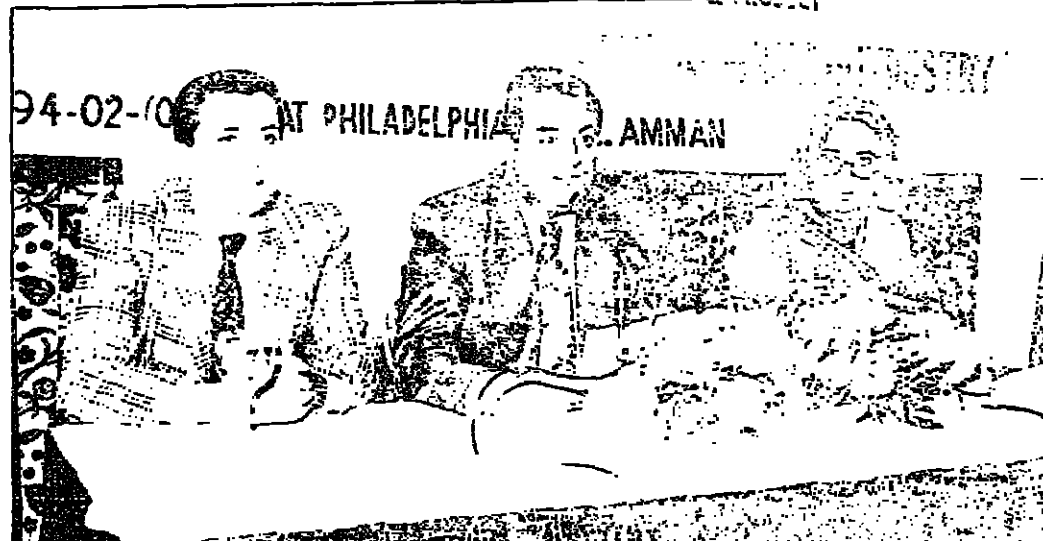
EDUCATION ON WHEELS: The mobile micro computer facility for teaching informatics donated to the Royal Scientific Society by the United Nations Educational Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery — Mecca Street.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Huda Sami Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720902).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Windawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Akram Isawi and Jamal Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Pameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Oriat Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Yasser Hmoud at the Balaadna Art Gallery (Wasfi Al Tal Street).



Setting Industry Standards: Ministry of Trade and Industry Secretary General Marwan Awad (centre) Monday opens a three-day seminar on "standardisation and its role in industry." The ministry, in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GZT) organised the seminar at the Amman Philadelphia Hotel, for representatives of the private and public sectors in the country. A total of 100 engineers, technicians and specialists in specifications and standards are attending. They will discuss requirements for ensuring the minimum level of quality needed in manufactured products, ways of ensuring protection for the environment from industrial work and other relevant subjects.

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Encounter, with words

IT APPEARS that the international outcry over the killing of 68 Bosnians and the wounding of many others in a mortar attack on Saturday will confine itself once again to mere rhetoric about the need to establish peace in the former Yugoslavia. U.S. President Bill Clinton, once a champion of the cause of Bosnia's independence and territorial integrity, saw in the attack an occasion to reinforce the call for peace in the country, but has done little on the ground to stop the fighting. The international community, especially the affected Bosnians, must be awfully tired of hearing the expressions of sentiments for peace while the indiscriminate killings and widespread suffering go on unabated.

President Clinton's worn-out pledge to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnians if the massacres continued has a shallow tone to it, and we wish that he would stop making false promises that his administration has no intention to keep. Only a week ago, the U.S. Senate voted by an overwhelming majority to end the arms embargo on Bosnia. Republican Senate leader Robert Dole has likewise repeatedly assured the White House that the American people would solidly back effective U.S. air strikes on Serbian gunners besieging Sarajevo. Yet nothing has happened, although other Western capitals are starting to feel more heat by the recent deaths in the Sarajevo marketplace. Unfortunately, though, most are offering no more than useless ideas to defuse the situation. One capital is calling for investigation, as if an attack of this sort needs an investigation and does not fall into a familiar pattern. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali may be edging closer to authorising aerial attacks, but he is not there yet by a long shot. This time, however, the secretary general has tried a turnaround by asking for permission from NATO to launch air strikes, exactly when the Western powers keep on asserting that they are still awaiting authorisation from the U.N. chief.

There is every fear that the continued bloodshed in Bosnia would increase the religious overtones of the conflict. There is nothing worse than to develop the fighting in Bosnia into a religious warfare that would have the seeds for international division on religious grounds. The world is already torn up by scores of flashpoints and can ill afford a religious dimension at a time when reasonable men and women are desperately trying to promote religious tolerance. There are now more and louder calls for an Islamic response, something that does not augur well for the new international order. Even the 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was not spared a frontal attack when one Gulf statesman depicted its objectives as "only to hold meetings and spend millions on meetings." While such a description of the OIC is not totally wrong, the biggest concern lies in the fact that religious conflicts need to be contained as soon as possible for fear that their fallout could engulf the entire globe with a new cycle of violence. This is a dimension of the Bosnian crisis that is for solid actions, and not just rhetorical reactions as has been the case so far.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on the massacre in Sarajevo that resulted in the death of more than 66 people, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that this horrible act of genocide drew mere verbal reactions from the Western capitals but nothing is being done to punish the culprits. Even the Arab League, which has so far condoned the atrocities committed against the Iraqi people, has followed the example of the Western capitals by voicing condemnation by mere words without moving to lend a helping hand to the victims, said the paper. The Western countries continue to deceive that the world by claiming that they are contemplating measures to stem the killing and to deter the aggressors, but in fact the West is bent on helping the murderers to eliminate the Muslim people of Bosnia, charged the daily. Before the funeral of the victims has ended, the seeming anger over the attack on Sarajevo will calm down in Washington and the other Western capitals as well as the Arab League which would once again delve into its long slumber, perturbed by the death of the Iraqi children or this massacre of the Bosnian women. In this situation, the Serbs who committed this and many other crimes against the Muslims will have the courage to pursue their action further, it added.

The View from Fourth Circle

Thanks, Doc, for a needed prologue

The parliamentary debate on the food and medicines controversy unleashed by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas was very impressive, but also slightly sad. It was impressive because of the manner in which an issue of great political sensitivity and public importance was openly and honestly discussed, with a credible degree of democratic give-and-take between the government and the parliamentarians.

It was also impressive for the decisive decisions by the executive and legislative branches to ask the public prosecutor to study the allegations thoroughly, to initiate legal cases against alleged violators of the pertinent laws, and to strengthen the control systems relating to food and medicines. On all these counts, the young Jordanian democratic system was rather effective, at least in the rhetoric department. We heard many good things. It remains to be seen what action follows.

The parliamentary debate probably accurately reflected the spectrum of opinion in society as a whole vis-a-vis the key issues at hand, i.e. should the minister of health have launched his campaign with an interview to a sensational tabloid newspaper? Could he not have dealt with the alleged violations through the existing machinery at his disposal?

These were not questions that could be answered with a definitive yes or no. They were judgements and opinions that needed to be expressed in a public forum, and this is precisely what happened in a constructive and rational manner (despite the still obvious sensitivity of the government and some MPs to public criticism — a sensitivity that will moderate in time, as our culture adapts to a public system of democratic pluralism and as the individuals involved adapt to the give-and-take of the public accountability of public servants).

The issue of alleged corruption among government officials was also mentioned frequently, and both the government and the MPs were Olympian in their verbal commitment to fighting corruption and safeguarding the wellbeing of the people. We'll have to wait and see what happens in the months ahead in the fight against corruption. It is unlikely that all cases of corruption will miraculously disappear because the government and the MPs waved their arms, vowed to fight for goodness, and condemned corruption as an evil that must be stamped out. Yet, the mere fact that corruption was raised as an issue of public concern is a positive development. We will soon find out if the probe into these charges will get any further than the probes against individuals accused of wrongdoing after the 1989 parliamentary elections.

Compared to most other countries in the Middle East, Jordan was heroic in its commitment to an honest, open discussion of issues that touched on both the personal wellbeing of the citizenry and the conduct of public officials. The rest of the Middle East, however, is a dubious standard against which to judge our progress on the democratisation front. We should be careful about patting ourselves on the back for being tidy in a largely messy neighbourhood.

Nevertheless, the last two weeks were generally positive in this respect, and we should recognise the good news while not hesitating to point out the bad news.

The bad news, I would suggest, is that the whole controversy sparked by Dr. Malhas' interview never really touched the main point that underlies the food and medicines controversy and others like it that probably await future exposure. That main point is the capacity of our public sector to play the quality control, supervisory and watchdog functions that are its legal and moral obligation.

The specific accusations about merchants who pressured the government to give them favourable decisions on imports or prices are not surprising, in view of the large profits that stand to be made. This is the central weakness that makes the government and many of its personnel susceptible to charges of wrongdoing — the fact that there is so much money available to be made in the private sector, while the public sector languishes under the intolerable burden of limited funds that have to be distributed in the form of salaries amongst a large bureaucracy.

Petty and massive corruption are likely to occur when three things happen, as have happened in Jordan and most of the rest of the Middle East in the second half of this century: when the central government is the major employer in the economy and also controls most spending that determines the fate of the national economy, and when there are no serious checks and balances on executive authority.

We suffer the additional problem of having a dynamic private sector and allowing free movement of people, which means that talented individuals can look to the private sector or employment abroad if they do not find government work professionally or financially satisfying. The result: a steady drain of the best minds out of public service and into the private sector or abroad, and a growing gap between salaries in the private and public sectors.

There is little doubt, as a result, that the quality of the public sector as a whole has declined in recent decades. While this may lead to some corruption — the parliamentary debate suggests that such a feeling is widespread — the more important problem is that it could lead to large-scale mismanagement or even incompetence. Specifically, the new threat that confronts our societies today and in the near future is whether or not the public sector has the combination of human expertise and organisational capacity to deal with the political power of the private sector and its alluring money.

The private sector is not angelic, of course; corporate greed will drive many private businesspeople to maximise their profits at the expense of the public's wellbeing, even through the use of bribes, favours, gifts, and other dubious means. Many government bureaucrats will find themselves in situations where they are unable to resist the temptations of private sector offerings. How can we expect a mid-level bureaucrat earning JD 150 a month to deal with the political and financial

pressures that can be brought to bear on him or her by the likes of global corporate giants that manufacture soft drinks, cigarettes, and other items that have a mass market potential in Jordan?

In the last three decades, we have witnessed the inability of government officials to formulate tough policies that are in the interest of the people as a whole, because such policies may hurt some special interest groups. We have seen our currency lose more than half its foreign exchange value. We have seen the finest rainfed agricultural lands in our western highlands sacrificed at the altar of commercial real estate profiteering. We have watched our underground water reserves slowly squeezed to a dangerous level where permanent damage may be inevitable. We have witnessed the emergence of serious environmental problems without sufficiently strong prevention or remedial programmes.

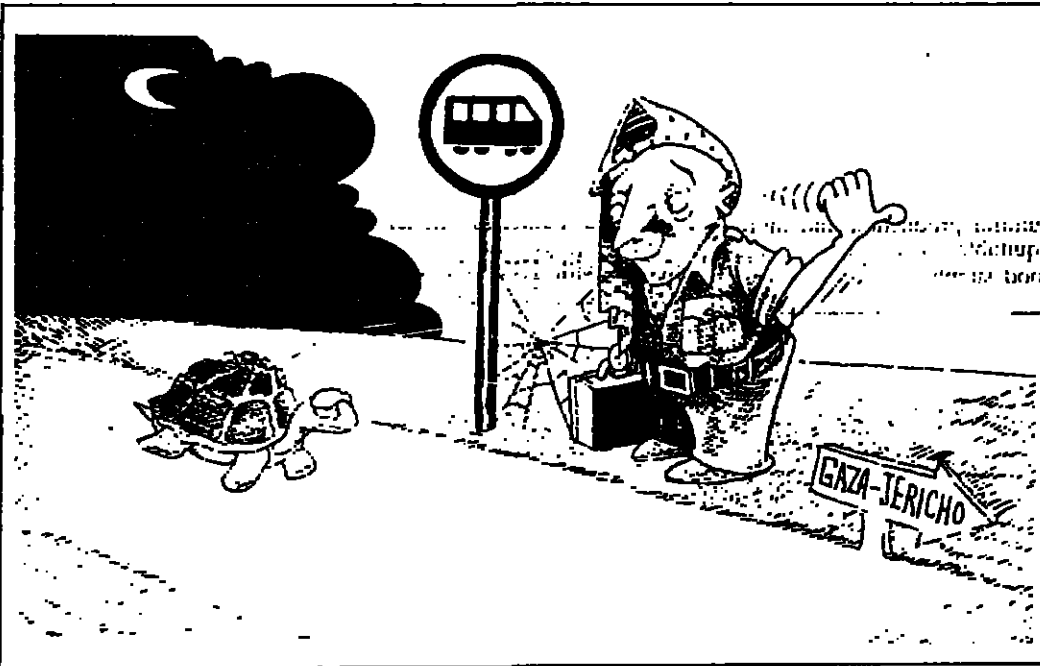
Historians and political psychologists will have to determine the reasons for these facts. I cannot say if this is a consequence of sheer mediocrity by public officials who faced problems they could not handle, or a case of intelligent, honest and hard-working individuals who were unable to withstand the political and other pressures that they were subjected to.

The fact remains that our public sector today is being asked to play the vital role of legal and moral watchdog of society, but it is not being given the personnel or the financial means needed to play that role. It is not surprising, then, that our society should suffer some corruption. It is surprising, however, that we should allow the causes of corruption and mismanagement to continue for so long, without addressing them.

We have a political system in place today that allows for an open, honest discussion of such sensitive issues. Dr. Malhas has done the country a real service by provoking a debate on the food and medicines sector. He should be thanked for his courage and his decisiveness, and perhaps even pencilled in for higher office in the future. What has happened in the last two weeks, though, is merely prologue. The real show has yet to begin.

It remains now for the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the Parliament headed by Taher Al Masri and Ahmad Al Lawzi to provide the leadership that their people expect from them — leadership in identifying the underlying causes of public sector mismanagement and corruption, and action to redress the causes. To evade such a responsibility would be simply to compound the problems and weaknesses of the recent past, and to postpone the day of reckoning until the problems caused by current trends are routinely catastrophic, rather than merely the cause of episodic news dramas. If the government and the parliament want to work together for the long-term public good, as they say they do, here's a good place to start.

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An irreversible process

By Yitzhak Rabin

IN THE last decade of our 20th century, walls of hatred have fallen, peoples have been liberated, and artificial barriers have disappeared, powers have crumbled and ideologies have collapsed.

It is our sacred duty, to ourselves and to our children, to see the new world as it is now, to note its dangers, explore its prospects, and do everything possible so that the state of Israel will fit into the changing face of this world. I think that in recent years the world has shrunk and no nation can solve its problems alone, and no country should think that it is isolated. Each nation should overcome those feelings and act in world and regional cooperation. We wish that our region will also join this movement towards peace, reconciliation and cooperation that is spreading over the globe these days.

I have committed myself and my government to the present peace process, and I have expressed on many occasions my hope that 1994 will be a year during which a peace agreement can be reached with our Arab neighbours. We believe with all our hearts that peace is possible, that it is imperative, and that it will come.

For much of my life I was a soldier. I took part in Israel's wars, as well as Israel's march for peace. As one who has been a soldier, I can still see — as though it were just yesterday — the rows of fallen comrades lining the road to Jerusalem in our war of independence; the skeletons of the burnt-out vehicles; the burning trucks; and the thousands of besieged Jerusalemites coming out towards us to get their sacks of sugar, and rice and jerry cans of water.

As one who was a commander, I know that before we decided — before I decided —

to go into battle, we always saw before us — and will always see — the eyes of the soldiers asking whether this is vital, whether there isn't some other choice.

Only one who, year after year, stands facing the thousands and tens of thousands of silent mourners in the cemeteries on Memorial Day, only one who has seen worlds destroyed and families devastated knows just how important peace is to us.

Nevertheless, as the son of a people that was exiled from its land as the son of a people to whom the picture of the child with raised hands in the Warsaw ghetto returns at night, I ask for your understanding and undivided attention: For us, peace, as important as it is, cannot prevail without security. Israel will be very forthcoming in its quest for peace, but it will not compromise on its security.

Israel is ready for peace and is willing to take risks and make dramatic decisions. But any risk or decision should be well calculated, for hasty actions could bring upon us irreversible results.

As chief of staff during the Arab-Israeli war, I promised myself that I would be the last commander of the Israeli army who would have to face untenable borders, unreasonable lines of defence, and the threat of annihilation. The security of our children, our security is essential.

If we have security, we will also have peace — for all the inhabitants of our country and for its neighbours.

The government of Israel recognises that in order to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and for peace to be real and permanent, it must be inclusive of all the parties to the conflict participating in the present peace process.

The U.S. has generated a formula which serves both as a

procedural and substantive term of reference to the peace process. We believe very firmly that there is no need to alter this formula, for it responds to our long quest to hold direct negotiations with those Arab parties invited to this process according to the Madrid Letter of Invitation. We should not lose precious time.

Our aim is to conclude a set of bilateral peace agreements in each and every track of negotiations in order to meet the objective of establishing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

The problem now is one of substance. I am convinced that temporary setbacks and difficulties in our negotiations with the PLO will not stop us from reaching an agreement. The road to peace is irreversible. Therefore I do believe that we should persevere in our efforts aimed at implementing our agreement with the PLO.

We don't have any territorial designs in Lebanon and our problems with Jordan could be solved fairly easily. However, Lebanon will not budge without Syria's blessing.

President Clinton met with President Assad in Geneva on Jan. 16. Out of this event came a hope that we should explore carefully in order to be sure that Syria genuinely means to achieve the kind of peace and security we are looking for, a peace that would last for generations to come, a peace that would put an end to the sufferings, plight and fear of all the peoples in the Middle East, a peace that would fulfill Prophet Isaiah's vision: "Nation shall not lift sword against nation, nor shall they learn war any more."

This is an excerpt from Prime Minister Rabin's address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe last week in Strasbourg. It is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Torn between East, West U.S. still to formulate post-cold war strategy

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Torn between Europe and Asia, between trade policy and classic realpolitik, the United States is still trying to construct a coherent strategy in the post-cold war world.

The visit of Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to Washington Friday presents an opportunity to examine these issues anew. But analysts and officials are divided on how the various strands of policy might fit together.

Last November at a summit for Asian-Pacific nations in Seattle, President Clinton seemed to suggest that the United States would increasingly look to Asia and to encouraging trade as its top priorities in foreign affairs.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher ruffled feathers by declaring that Europe was no longer the centre of the world.

That forced Mr. Clinton to soothe feelings during a January NATO summit by stating that Washington's new attention to Asia certainly did not come at the expense of its

traditional cultural ties and decades of friendship with Europe.

All this is happening under a U.S. president who is less engaged, less experienced and less energetic in foreign affairs than some of his predecessors.

There is a feeling in Washington that the priority is neither Asia nor Europe but Iowa, Texas and California and that all politics have become local.

A decision to let Irish republican leader Gerry Adams visit the United States was taken largely because Mr. Clinton needs the support of prominent Irish-American politicians to push through health care reforms.

Intervention to stop the war in Yugoslavia was rejected because it "would threaten the survival of the fragile liberal coalition represented by this presidency," one State Department official said last year.

U.S. troops started leaving Somalia after 18 soldiers were killed in a firefight — considered an unacceptable level of casualties for the world's only superpower in the post cold war world.

So what are U.S. priorities and what should they be?

During the cold war, U.S. foreign policy consisted of opposing the Soviet Union anywhere and everywhere in the world. Everything else was secondary.

According to Boston University Professor Uri Ra'anan, the priority should still be the future of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics.

"You don't require a foreign policy to do trade. Foreign policy has always been and remains security policy. It has to do with arms agreements, the creation of alliances and the prevention of weapon proliferation," he said.

In Mr. Ra'anan's view, the number one task facing Mr. Clinton is to rebuild NATO into an effective instrument that will be able to react to crises that are sure to lie ahead in Europe. But his view does not seem to be shared in the administration.

"In the past, the security threat gave us good reason to overlook discrepancies in economic relations," said a senior State Department official.

Russia is vital link in NATO's partnership plans

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Eastern European states are racing to sign new military partnership deals with NATO but the alliance is increasingly worried that Russia — the most vital link in the chain — may not take part.

NATO leaders offered "partnership for peace" to its former Communist foes, including Russia, at a summit one month ago. Poland, Romania, Lithuania and Estonia have all signed. Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia will do so this week.

The partnership, which provides for joint training, peacekeeping exercises and other military cooperation, was designed partly to ease Russian fears that NATO would rush to take on Moscow's former satellites as members.

The idea was billed as a chance to include all countries in building greater security for Europe, while not excluding an expansion of NATO at some time in the future.

NATO diplomats said that while Russia had initially wel-

comed the plan, there were now indications that Moscow was unhappy with the rush to sign up by countries which see the partnership as the first step towards joining the 16-nation alliance.

"One of the central ideas behind partnership for peace was that it would be a way of including Russia, since it is the biggest power in Europe and the most important part of the jigsaw," said one NATO diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

"We are increasingly worried by signals that Moscow may not be interested after all," he said.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said last week Moscow could not support the partnership if it was used as a vehicle for the integration of Eastern European states and former Soviet republics into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The problem is that this is precisely how Eastern European states see it. Romania, Poland, Lithuania and Estonia all stressed in signing the deal at NATO Headquarters that their aim was full membership.

Eastern European states are

increasingly worried by the rise of extreme nationalism in Russia and Moscow's more conservative line on foreign policy, which diplomats say has been heavily influenced by the military.

With signs that Russia may be edging away from reform, those countries are keener than ever to find shelter with NATO.

Russia wants U.N. approval to take more direct responsibility for keeping order in former Soviet republics and has raised problems recently over a landmark European arms treaty which limits the deployment of its conventional forces.

In addition, there is still tension between Moscow and the Baltic republics, part of the Soviet Union until 1991.

NATO diplomats say they have received conflicting signals from Moscow on the "partnership for peace" proposal and that it is unclear what Russia really means.

President Boris Yeltsin told U.S. President Bill Clinton after the NATO summit last month that Moscow would play an active role in the partnership.

Features

FAO sounds alarm:

Freshwater growing scarce, misused

ESCWA press release

Raising the spectre of sharply increased water prices and urging agriculture to produce more food with less water, the annual report of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the State of Food and Agriculture 1993 labelled freshwater as "an increasingly scarce and valuable resource."

The report, expressed concern about the worldwide "failure to recognise and issued in Rome accept that there is a finite supply of water" and warned: "As populations expand and economies grow, competition for limited supplies will intensify and so will conflicts among water users."

A 78-page special chapter in the report, on "Water policies and agriculture", reflected concern that "growing water scarcity and misuse of freshwater pose serious threats to sustainable development." It added that "competition among agriculture, industry and cities for limited water supplies is already constraining development efforts in many countries."

In his comments on the report, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf, said: "To underscore water's importance, the FAO is devoting the theme of this year's World Food Day to 'Water for Life' and will launch a public awareness campaign."

With more than two thirds of the water withdrawn from the earth's rivers, lakes and aquifers being used for irrigation, agriculture is the world's largest water user. Some 2.4 billion people depend on irrigated agriculture for jobs, food and incomes.

Over the next 30 years, the report predicts, 80 per cent of the additional food needed to feed the world will have to come from irrigated agriculture, just as increasingly scarce water supplies force agriculture to give up water to cities and industries.

According to the FAO report, domestic water users generally can afford to pay

more for water than agricultural users, while industrial water users provide more jobs, produce more income and earn a higher rate of return per unit of water than agriculture. Agriculture, the report says, "is also a relatively low-value, low-efficiency and highly subsidised water user."

'As populations expand and economies grow, competition for limited supplies will intensify and so will conflicts among users'

Water quantity and quality requirements differ widely depending on the use. The report cites a private study which calculates that about 15,000 cubic metres of water and normally sufficient to irrigate one hectare of rice. "This same amount," adds the study, "can supply 100 nomads and 450 heads of stock for three years; or 100 rural families through house connections for four years; or 100 urban families for two years; or 100 luxury hotel guests for 55 days."

Though the rising cost of water will present another obstacle for developing countries, the report said higher water prices should encourage farmers to use water more efficiently, while promoting water-saving technologies.

Today, despite "huge investments and subsidies," the report said, "irrigation performance indicators are falling short of expectations for yield increases, area irrigated and technical efficiency in water use. As much as 60 per cent of the water diverted or pumped for irrigation is wasted; in too

many cases this excess water seeps back into the ground, causing waterlogging and salinity. As much as one quarter of all irrigated land in developing countries suffers from varying degrees of salinisation."

Several countries are already improving agriculture water use through administrative reform policies, investment in irrigation management and irrigation rehabilitation. But the report recommends that countries must do more than encourage innovations in water-saving technologies: they must also establish a structure of pricing incentives, regulations, permits, restrictions and penalties to encourage the efficient use of water.

The developing world needs irrigated agriculture to increase incomes, improve production and ensure food security into the next century, according to the FAO.

The State of Food and Agriculture 1993 analyses issues that could have major impacts on global food and agriculture policies. It stresses that a worldwide economic recovery is needed to stimulate agricultural growth and trade and predicts some improvement in agricultural commodity prices during 1994, following the downward slide of the last 10 years.

The report also looks at opportunities to produce a wider range of better quality agricultural products through biotechnology. The report warns, however, that inadequate distribution of biotechnology could aggravate socio-economic imbalances. Developing countries and poorer farmers face difficulties in absorbing new technologies, while technological substitutes for agricultural products, like artificial vanilla, may jeopardise exports from developing countries.

In a region-by-region review, the report produced these findings:

In Asia, while improved seed and fertiliser technology, complemented with a vast expansion in irrigation facilities, removed the spectre of hun-

ger from many Asian countries, in some cases, it was leading to environmental degradation.

In Latin America, currency overvaluation was a major influence behind the weakness in agricultural exports. Added to that was the dramatic fall of commodity prices, affecting several of the main export products of the region.

In Central and Eastern Europe, reform and the uncertainty surrounding privatisation and property rights continued to influence the region's agricultural production negatively.

Africa was still the continent most seriously affected by food shortages, requiring exceptional emergency assistance. Food security has been a major preoccupation in the region.

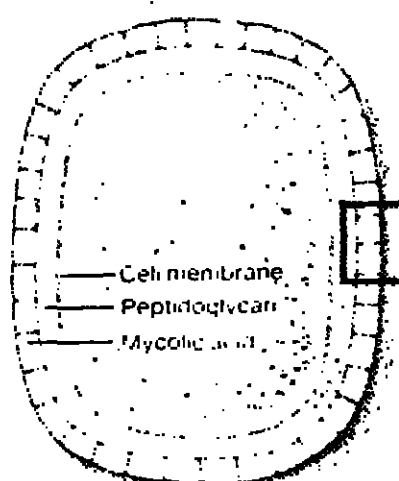
In a detailed analysis of the situation in Africa, the report highlighted some bright developments, including a programme launched by Senegal that aims to achieve 80 per cent self-sufficiency in food.

However, the report said, about 20 per cent of the people in the developing world, some 780 million, are chronically undernourished, consuming too little food to meet even minimal energy needs. "Approximately 192 million children under five years of age suffer from acute or chronic protein-energy malnutrition."

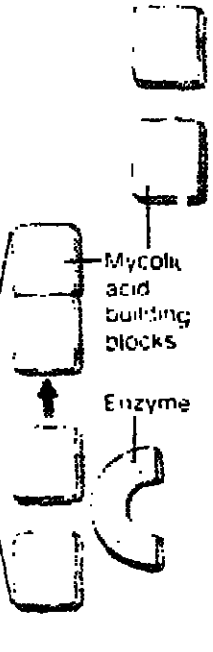
The report also notes that there have been a number of impressive achievements in food availability over the last few decades. It states that the number of people in developing regions suffering from chronic malnutrition has declined consistently, from 36 per cent to 20 per cent, even though the world population has increased.

The FAO publishes The State of Food and Agriculture each year as part of its continuing effort to focus world attention on the major issues constraining increased agricultural production and more equitable distribution of the food supply.

How Tuberculosis May Develop Drug Resistance



In research on how a drug works against tuberculosis, scientists have found a gene that directs production of an enzyme involved in building a special structural layer.



Assembling Waxy Coat
The enzyme is believed to assemble building blocks of Mycolic acid into a waxy coating.

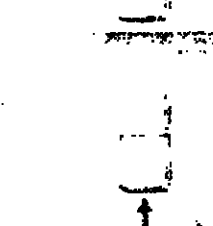


How Drug Works
The drug appears to bind to the enzyme, keeping it from functioning. The bacterium dies when its coating fails.

Two Theories of Resistance



Mutation
If the gene mutates and produces an altered enzyme, the drug will not bind to the enzyme.



Drug Saturation
If too much of the enzyme is produced, the drug is overwhelmed.

A breakthrough on tuberculosis

By Lawrence K. Altman

NEW YORK — Tuberculosis researchers have made a laboratory discovery that they say paves the way for the development of new and more powerful drugs against the infectious disease, which has become a growing public health threat throughout the world.

As strains of the tubercle bacillus have become resistant to the drugs that have long controlled the infection, tuberculosis has once again become a deadly disease in the United States, as well as in less developed countries.

Only a few years ago, the U.S. government set the year 2010 as the date for eliminating tuberculosis from the country. But now federal health officials say the disease is out of control in several areas, including New York City, where it has become a major problem in hospitals and homeless shelters and among people who are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium that causes the disease, has become resistant to as many as seven drugs.

The resurgence of tuberculosis has spurred a new wave of research, reported in the journal Science by researchers from New York and New Zealand.

The discovery seems to explain how isoniazid, a key anti-tuberculosis drug, kills the tubercle bacillus. Even though isoniazid has been one of the main weapons in the control of tuberculosis since 1952, scientists have never understood how it works.

Doctors prescribe isoniazid to prevent full-fledged disease in people who have recently shown evidence of infection in a tuberculin skin test and to treat the disease. But with the rise of new cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis, experts are no longer certain about its effectiveness.

The new study reports on the discovery of a gene in M. tuberculosis called inhA, for isonicotinic acid hydrazide. The gene directs the production of an enzyme that the researchers suspect helps chain lipids to each other. They believe isoniazid works by targeting the enzyme and interfering with the lipids to kill the bacterium.

One of the main goals is to use the discovery of the gene to find new drugs to overcome the currently drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis. As a crucial step in pursuit of that goal, the researchers are in the process of crystallising the enzyme in the laboratory to see its three-dimensional structure.

The researchers also are exploring the possibility of using the crystallised enzyme to develop drugs against a bacterial cousin of tuberculosis known as M. avium. It produces a common problem among people with AIDS that is difficult to treat.

"By identifying the target enzyme, we now have the knowledge we need to overcome resistance to this drug," said Dr. William R. Jacobs Jr., the head of the New York research team and a researcher at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. "The idea is that by understanding this protein, the target, we should be able to make drugs that will substitute for isoniazid and be better."

Another dividend of the new findings might be the development of more rapid tests to

detect drug-resistant tuberculosis, Dr. Jacobs said. He said his team still had an incomplete picture of precisely how isoniazid kills the tubercle bacillus, but it has hypothesized how the microbe might develop resistance to isoniazid. This could occur either through a mutation that blocks isoniazid from binding to it or through the manufacture of large amounts of the enzyme, which would nullify isoniazid's effect. "If we understand exactly how isoniazid binds, we should be able to design drugs that would bind and kill the bacterium."

In the research that led to the discovery of the gene, Dr. Jacobs's team began collaborating with Dr. Paul Atkinson, the head of a laboratory in New Zealand. His team's research in Upper Hut, New Zealand, is focused on M. bovis, an important infection of cattle.

Both teams identified a mutation in the inhA gene that produced drug resistance. The researchers used different members of the mycobacterium family. The New York team identified the mutation in M. smegmatis and the New Zealand group found it in M. bovis.

That was strong but only partial proof that they had found the target for isoniazid and that it was the enzyme produced by inhA.

The next step is to crystallise the enzyme, thereby providing

a three-dimensional picture of the protein. "With that, you can begin to see how the isoniazid actually binds to the molecule and how it works," Dr. Jacobs said.

Dr. Jacobs said his team could not undertake such crystallisation studies until it had found the target. "Before this we did not know what to crystallise," he said. "Now we know this is the protein we want to do the crystal structure on."

Dr. Jacobs also said that he has found hints that inhA might have implications beyond tuberculosis and he speculated that the discovery "might open up the way to make a whole new class of broad-spectrum antibiotics."

New York Times.

Cabinet to endorse tax law

(Continued from page 1)

existing tax structure to determine whether it would lead to high prices in the market and burden the poor," said a source. "By the time attention was given to the details, it was too late because people had already framed their opinion and judged that the sales tax was no good for Jordan."

Mr. Gammooh conceded Monday that there were differing viewpoints over the draft law, which has been under discussion for the past 30 months, and the final draft was endorsed with a clear understanding that the low-income group would be protected against any increase in prices.

According to officials familiar with the final draft, the law sets 10 per cent as a general rate of tax and allows the rate to go up to 20 per cent for luxury items.

Any further upward revision of the rate and the second phase of the tax to include the services sector will have to have parliamentary endorsement in the form of a separate law.

The draft law, according to the officials, provides for the tax to be levied on landed cost plus customs duties on imported products.

Importers, represented by the Chamber of Commerce, were demanding that the levy be calculated on the landed

cost excluding customs, while local industries, represented by the Chamber of Industry, argued that this would give an edge to imported products over locally manufactured goods.

Manufacturers also argued that they would be subject to double taxation; first when their raw materials enter the country and again when the finished products leave their production plants. But this dispute was over by a proposed arrangement under which the taxes paid on entry of raw material will be reduced from the tax calculated on final products.

Among other differences that held up the draft law was over the duration of the first stage of implementing the tax before expanding its coverage of non-trade sectors of the economy.

A range of products, mostly basic foodstuff, medicine and educational materials, are exempted from the tax.

In essence the sales will replace a consumption tax which took effect in 1992, and proponents of the draft law say that there would not be any immediate price rises in the market since the levy was not an addition.

But businessmen are not convinced, and Parliament might turn out to be the final judge in the controversy.

Arafat, Peres seek deal

(Continued from page 1)

with Mr. Peres. Israel had warned that Mr. Peres would not travel to Cairo without an assurance of a meeting with the PLO chairman.

"It depends on the willingness of the Palestinians to come to Cairo, as was agreed in Davaos," said Mr. Rabin on Israeli radio.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa salvaged the meeting by contacting both Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat by telephone late Sunday, the PLO representative in Cairo, Said Kamal, told reporters.

Israel and the PLO are to try to iron out differences which have held up implementation of their Sept. 13 autonomy accord. Under the deal, Israeli troops were to have started pulling out of Gaza and Jericho on December 13.

The main stumbling-blocks in the negotiations have been the control of crossing points from the autonomous areas into Egypt and Jordan, and security measures for Jewish settlers in Gaza.

But Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat agreed in Davaos that Israel would grant autonomy to about 55 square kilometres of land around Jericho, according to the Israeli press.

Mr. Kamal said the Palestinians "want to end the de-

lays." "We want to end the vicious circle in which the negotiations are being held, to be able to draft all the clauses of the accord."

Nabil Shaath, the PLO's chief autonomy negotiator, said the Israelis had made statements apparently renouncing what was achieved in Davaos.

"The 'miracles' of Mr. Rabin are blocking the way," Dr. Shaath told AFP, referring to the prime minister's comments last week that it would take a miracle to have a final accord this week.

Mr. Rabin has said it needs three or four more weeks, while Mr. Arafat has said he would be ready to sign an accord in Cairo.

"The PLO hopes that we will reach an accord based on what was achieved at Davaos," said Dr. Shaath. "But the Israelis have gone back on what was achieved at the Davaos talks, when the two sides were close to an accord."

The PLO on Sunday appealed to the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the Middle East peace initiative launched in 1991, to "pressure" Israel into "rapidly" withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

4 Israeli soldiers killed

(Continued from page 1)

the first in South Lebanon since Dec. 10, when an officer was killed after his tank was hit by a rocket.

Hizbollah said in a statement broadcast by its radio station that its fighters carried out the ambush in remembrance of their leader, Sheikh Abbas Musawi, killed Feb. 16, 1992, in an Israeli helicopter raid.

Another Hizbollah figure, Sheikh Raghad Harb, a fiery anti-Israeli resistance leader and preacher, was assassinated in the village of Jibsheet Feb. 16, 1994. Hizbollah blamed the Israelis, who occupied the region at the time.

The guerrillas also carried out two other bomb attacks Monday on patrols from the

Israeli army and its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA), militia apparently causing no casualties.

Israeli forces and the SLA retaliated by pounding guerrilla positions with Howitzers. By late afternoon, the Israelis had fired more than 200 artillery and tank rounds, and the guerrillas had unleashed about 50 Katyusha rockets and scores of mortar rounds, the sources said.

In terms of weapons deployed and the area engulfed in fire, Monday's violence was the worst in seven months. At least 148 people were killed and 500 wounded in a week-long Israeli air, sea and land blitz in July.

Abu Nidal behind Maayteh murder

(Continued from page 1)

Maaytah, the embassy's first secretary, outside his Beirut home on Jan. 29 and seized some documents from his briefcase.

His Majesty King Hussein, who was away on an official visit to the U.S., when Mr. Maaytah was murdered, told reporters upon his return that Jordan would not be "intimidated by cowards and

cowardly acts."

"We have paid dearly in blood in the past for our principles, our ideals ... I don't think that there are any in this world who can intimidate this country," the King said.

"Nobody can murder a nation and I think here we have a nation which stands proud and will continue to stand proud," he added.

Aden, Sanaa trade charges

(Continued from page 1)

and the airforce command in Sanaa and Hodeida are held responsible for the consequences of such illegal acts which represent a serious precedent threatening flights in the Yemeni airspace and harming Yemen's reputation."

He called for the immediate release of the plane, its cargo

and crew, Mr. King said the British Foreign Office had been informed of the incident.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh have been locked in a bitter feud for months which threatens to tear the country apart. The two ruled North and South Yemen respectively until the merger.

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- FAMILIARITY WITH USAID PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS PREFERRED
- COLLEGE DEGREE

PROJECT SECRETARY: SEEKING CANDIDATES (JORDANIANS) WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- EXCELLENT WORDPROCESSING SKILLS
- PROFICIENCY WITH PC-BASED SOFTWARE WORDPERFECT 5.1 AND LOTUS 123
- GOOD ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS
- FLUENCY IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC REQUIRED
- TYPING MINIMUM OF 70 WPM
- ABILITY TO TAKE DICTATION PREFERRED

PROJECT ACCOUNTANT: SEEKING CANDIDATES (JORDANIANS) WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- FAMILIARITY WITH USAID FINANCIAL REPORTING PROCEDURES
- EXCELLENT COMMAND OF COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS
- BILINGUAL IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC
- COLLEGE DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING OR RELATED FIELDS

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UAE '94 budget totals \$4.79 billion

seven-state UAE because of the reluctance of wealthier members Abu Dhabi and Dubai to increase contributions at a time when the poorer UAE emirates continue to pay nothing towards federal costs.

The ministry has urged federal ministries to hold down their spending estimates for the year which started on Jan. 1 because of low oil prices. The budget will be backdated to the beginning of the year.

Abu Dhabi, which produces most of the UAE's 2.161 million barrels per day of crude, is believed to contribute about 80 per cent of the budget and the rest is provided by Dubai and income from indirect taxes and fees.

a surplus of 2.7 per cent of GDP by end-1995.

said, arguing the case for immediate cuts to strengthen policy credibility.

It also endorsed the central bank's two per cent inflation target and its caution in reducing short-term interest rates.

Structural policies would be important for restoring economic stability, the OECD said, urging steps to shake up labour markets and remove obstacles to wage flexibility.

Preventing high unemployment from becoming persistent was "an important end in itself" but also a means of budget deficit-reduction.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 1994.
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you will have kept promises made associates. Take no risks with your well established reputation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take the time this morning to visit barber or beauty shop so that you are at your best meeting others for any creative expressions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't waste a moment

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You must make a good impression

Peanuts

The Dog - That Most Magnificent of All Creatures.

WHAT KIND OF DOG ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Any Dog

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SCHULZ

Mutt'n' Jeff

JEFF, I THOUGHT YOU WERE WORKING!
I AM WORKING! I'M THE FOREMAN ON THIS JOB!

FOREMAN? A LITTLE SHRIMP LIKE YOU A FOREMAN?
DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?

NO!

HEY, MURPHY! YOU'RE FIRED!

ER-YES SIR!

???

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[illegible]

'Waiting mode' slows down trading at AFM

Commercial bank shares accounted for more than 40 per cent of trading in the weeks that followed the signing of the Jordan-PLO accord, which, among other things, cleared the way for reopening the branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories.

Public Sector Minister Atef Obeid as saying shares in four cement companies would be floated on the stock exchange from this week.

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N. Korea sanctions 'inevitable'

SEOUL (Agencies) — U.N. sanctions against North Korea for refusing nuclear inspections appear inevitable despite a new promise by its leader not to develop atomic bombs. South Korean officials said Monday.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo said U.N. sanctions against the Communist North appeared unavoidable if no progress is made in the nuclear issue within two weeks.

"The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general is expected to declare safeguards broken in North Korea if no breakthrough is made by Feb. 21," Mr. Han told a meeting with opposition legislators.

"In such a case, it is inevitable that North Korea's nuclear issue would be referred to the U.N. Security Council," he said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is a U.N. agency monitoring the spread of nuclear weapons.

North Korea says its nuclear programme is peaceful but its refusal to accept mandatory international inspections has deepened suspicions that it might be developing nuclear weapons.

In a verbal message sent to President Bill Clinton through U.S. Evangelist Billy Graham last week, North Korean President Kim Il Sung promised anew that his country would not develop nuclear weapons

and hoped for improved ties with Washington. Seoul officials said.

Rev. Graham stopped over in Hong Kong on his way home from the North Korean trip and said he had an aide take Mr. Kim's message to Mr. Clinton ahead of him.

A copy of Mr. Graham's report was sent to the Seoul government by the White House.

"In the message, President Kim noted that he has promised many times in the past not to develop nuclear weapons and hoped to improve relations with the United States," said Chang Jae-Ryong, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Division.

Rev. Graham also said in the report that the 81-year-old Kim looked healthy and gave the impression that he personally handled nuclear and other major state affairs. Kim Jong Il, the president's 51-year-old son, is being groomed to succeed his father.

Meanwhile, North Korean official newspaper said Monday Pyongyang will not negotiate with the United States to end row over its suspected nuclear programme so long as Washington failed to honour its promises.

"The United States has totally reversed its promise (to North Korea) that it would seek only an inspection for the continuity of safeguards," said a commentary in the Rodong

Sinmun, the organ of North Korea's ruling party.

The article, entitled "we have no intention to negotiate with (a) faithless partner", said the United States had "even raised the demand for a 'special inspection' of two military sites which have nothing to do with nuclear activities."

"We will not entreat the United States to keep its faith. It is our will to answer faith with faith, and strong arm with a tough stance," said the article, carried by the state-run (North) Korean Central News Agency and seen in Tokyo.

Last week, North Korea threatened to tear up its "goodwill commitments" with the United States over Washington demands to open all suspected nuclear sites to international inspection.

At the heart of the dispute is the question of two sites. North Korea insists it has no nuclear weapons programme and has refused to open the sites to inspection by the IAEA.

In a sign of rising tensions on the Korean peninsula, the United States has decided to deploy Patriot missiles in South Korea from March or April — a step South Korean elder statesmen Kim Dae-Jung described Monday as unhelpful.

"I don't think it is helpful for the nuclear negotiations," the retired pro-democracy campaigner said in Hong Kong.

Patriot missiles are designed to intercept the type of missiles

which North Korea produces.

In Washington, the Defence Department has told some reservists to prepare for possible joint military exercises with South Korea that North Korean leaders have portrayed as a symbol of planning for war.

The Post, in a dispatch from Vienna said orders to ship out more than a thousand U.S. troops and reservists to South Korea were being prepared for Feb. 22. The exercise is known as Team Spirit.

In Seoul, a defector from North Korea said Monday he had fled the country because food shortages had forced him and his family to eat animal fodder.

Chung Ki-Hae, 52, told a government-organised press conference that even the corn and soybeans mixed with animal fodder provided in rations early last year had run out.

"Beginning last May even these ceased to be provided as rations and our family had to live on potatoes alone," he said.

Mr. Chung told how he had fled over the Chinese border on Dec. 30 but declined to say how he had reached the South Korean port of Pusan.

Reports of food shortages in North Korea have been rife but unsubstantiated in the three years since China started asking hard currency for its exports and the collapse of the Soviet Union, formerly a main trading partner.



TINY BOOK: A tiny book entitled *Three Hundred Poems From The Tang Dynasty* is displayed in the Taiwanese capital, Taipei. The 75-page book took two years to make and measures 0.9 centimetres long, 0.9 centimetres wide and 0.5 centimetres high. It is part of a 50-piece exhibit of miniatures which will open on Feb. 18 in Taipei (AFP photo)

Right wing holds secret meeting aheads of planned government, ANC talks

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The conservative Freedom Alliance was locked in top secret talks Monday ahead of a planned meeting with the government and the African National Congress (ANC) on whether it will take part in the country's first all-race elections in April.

Sources close to the Alliance said the tripartite talks would begin Monday evening in Pretoria, but none of the participants would officially confirm this.

The negotiations had recessed Thursday following an ANC announcement that it would unveil a package of compromises bowing to certain Alliance demands only if the conservative group agreed to be more "flexible."

An ANC spokesman said the ball was now in the Alliance's court, while a spokesman for the rival, Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), a top member of the Freedom Alliance, said it was up to the ANC to decide whether or not it intended to unveil its package.

The ANC said last week that it had backed down on its demand for a single ballot paper to choose members of both the national and regional assemblies in the April 26-28 election.

Other reports said the package also included greater federal powers for the country's nine new provinces.

The Freedom Alliance, which comprises the IFP, the white right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) and the government of the Bophuthatswana black homeland, opposed ANC claims that separate ballot papers would result in confusion and spoiled votes.

The alliance said a single voting slip would be an advantage to larger parties and penalise smaller political groups.

An IFP official told AFP Monday that the ANC's offer to unveil its compromise package in return for "flexibility" was "a fortune cookie approach" to the negotiations.

"You cannot find out what is in the cookie until you break it open," she said.

She also said an ANC compromise on the single-double ballot issue had "no constitutional value in terms of powers (for the regions) — it only has democratic value."

Both government and Alliance spokesmen remained tight-lipped over the eventual resumption of the talks.

An Alliance spokesman said there "was a new blackout" on the conservative group's meeting, and that things were "at a very delicate stage."

The IFP Central Committee met Sunday in Umtata and decided that IFP negotiators would stick to their demands for a stronger federal constitution and warned that a government-ANC rejection would have "adverse implications."

On Monday, President F.W. de Klerk accused the ANC of "deliberately" sidelining the IFP and its leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, saying this continued to be major cause behind the violence in South Africa.

Speaking to a group of businessmen here, he also appealed for their support in order to have a "balance of power" in the national unity government to emerge from the April election.

The ANC, meanwhile, announced Monday that its president, Nelson Mandela, would hold talks with Bophuthatswana's President Lucas Mangope, but that the date was not yet known.

On Sunday, Mandela's convoy drove through Bophuthatswana police lines while on an election campaign, with Mr. Mandela saying the homeland leader's refusal to allow free political activity was among "the things that make us detest (Mangope) from the bottom of our heart."

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Whoopi Goldberg named to host Oscar ceremony

HOLLYWOOD (R) — Oscar-winning actress and comedian Whoopi Goldberg was named Sunday to host this year's Academy Awards ceremony. Goldberg, the first woman and first black performer to serve as a solo host of the show, replaces Billy Crystal, who last month said he would not return after filling the role for four straight years. "I'm thrilled about my date with Oscar," Goldberg said in a statement.

"To go from watching to winning to hosting in one lifetime is major." The Academy Awards will be handed out March 21 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles and will be televised live to hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide. "Whoopi Goldberg has all the qualities of a great Oscar host," the show's producer Gilbert Cates said. "She is a major movie star with millions of fans and she is also one of the funniest, most talented performers working today."

Goldberg recently went to bat for her then-companion, actor Ted Danson when Danson was criticised for blacking his face and telling a series of bawdy, racist and sexist jokes, at a charity luncheon for Goldberg. She later defended his routine, saying she had written some of the material and that she found it funny. With Crystal's abrupt announcement he would not return as host, Cates was faced with the task of finding a replacement quickly. Along with Goldberg, a number of others had been rumoured as possible successors, including Robin Williams, Tom Hanks, Eddie Murphy, Chevy Chase and Johnny Carson. Goldberg, who won an Oscar for best supporting actress in 1991 for her role in *Ghost*, has co-hosted comic relief — a televised charity benefit for the homeless — in recent years.

On Monday, President F.W. de Klerk accused the ANC of "deliberately" sidelining the IFP and its leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, saying this continued to be major cause behind the violence in South Africa.

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New Zealander tries to attack Charles

AUCKLAND (R) — A 58-year-old man muttering that he wanted to "remove the stink of royalty" was wrestled to the ground in New Zealand Monday after charging at Britain's Prince Charles spraying a can of air freshener.

Castilav Bracanov, previously jailed for minor attacks on royalty visiting New Zealand, rushed towards the heir to the British throne as he walked among crowds of well-wishers on Auckland waterfront.

Prince Charles was unharmed in the attack, which was foiled when several police officers leapt on the balking Bracanov, a Yugoslav settled in New Zealand, and took him away under arrest.

Showing the same sangfroid that earned him praise when he was attacked 10 days ago in Australia, Prince Charles hardly appeared to notice the incident, which lasted just a few seconds.

"He was completely unbothered. His only comment was an ironic one: 'whatever next?'" his Private Secretary Richard Aylard told reporters.

Governor-General Dame Cath Tizard, the queen's representative in New Zealand, told Reuters that Prince Charles had barely noticed the incident and was not bothered by it.

"He just said, 'what was that all about?'" Dame Cath said. Police said the aerosol sprayed by Mr. Bracanov as he ran to within three metres of Prince Charles contained air freshener.

Photographer Paul Estcourt heard Mr. Bracanov shouting: "You're always spraying shit anyway." Another witness, photographer Ross Land, said he heard Mr. Bracanov saying he wanted to "remove the stink of royalty."

Mr. Bracanov was convicted in 1988 and 1990 of charges relating to incidents in which he dumped horse manure in the path of cars carrying Spanish and British monarchs.

He was also convicted of damaging a rare vintage Rolls Royce car in Auckland two years ago because of its connection to British royalty.

Mr. Bracanov is a well-known voice on New Zealand talk radio shows, where he frequently airs radical anti-monarchy views. His lawyer, Colin Amery, said Mr. Bracanov "has a basic view that heredity should not automatically grant people high office."

Police said he would appear in court Tuesday in Auckland charged with disorderly conduct. The maximum penalty is a small fine.

Prince Charles, besieged in the past year during a highly-publicised separation from his wife, Princess Diana, was praised for his reaction to a more violent event in Sydney on Jan. 26, when a young student charged at him firing a starter's gun.

New Finnish president stresses need for unity

HELSINKI (R) — Finland's President-Elect Martti Ahtisaari has pledged to be a unifying force in a country mired in recession and facing tough foreign policy choices.

Mr. Ahtisaari, a veteran United Nations diplomat with little experience of domestic politics, is expected to continue neutral Finland's moves towards closer ties with the West since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Ahtisaari, 56, of the opposition Social Democrats, beat Defence Minister Elisabeth Rehn of the Swedish People's Party Sunday in Finland's first presidential election by direct popular vote, he won 53.9 per cent of the vote against Ms. Rehn's 46.1 per cent.

He is a firm supporter of the Nordic nation's bid to join the European Union next year.

"The incoming president will have difficult tasks both in economic and foreign policy. It is important that the nation is not split," Mr. Ahtisaari said after Ms. Rehn conceded defeat.

"I will try to see to it that I am perceived as a president for the whole country," he said. Despite Mr. Ahtisaari's campaign focus on the country's worst recession since independence from neighbouring Russia in 1917, his main task will be foreign policy, including maintaining good relations with Moscow.

Throughout his campaign Mr. Ahtisaari has said that Russia, with which Finland shares a 1,270 kilometre border, must not be isolated in post-cold war Europe.

"We have always in Finland wanted to maintain good relations with our neighbours, particularly Russia, and I want to continue that," he told a post-election news conference.

"It is important that we support a democratic process in Russia, it is important that

reforms continue and that they are supported by the international community," he said.

In Stockholm, Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt said, "he will be a president who continues and strengthens the Nordic and European orientation of Finnish politics, which has become ever more pronounced in recent years."

In the late 1980s, Finnish leaders said the country's neutrality was incompatible with European Community membership.

But its room for manoeuvre increased after the demise of the Soviet Union and Finland is now, like Sweden, in the final stages of negotiating EU accession.

Even NATO membership has not been ruled out, though its policy remains one of independent defence and military non-alignment.

"I favour a pan-European security system containing all the sides important to us. In such a system, care must be taken not to leave Russia outside," Mr. Ahtisaari said last week.

However, political analysts say it was Mr. Ahtisaari's focus on record unemployment of nearly 20 per cent, which was a decisive factor in his victory.

Mr. Ahtisaari, a heavily-built man with a pensive manner, only decided to run for the presidency last March, benefiting from voter disenchantment with old-style covert politics that dominated the country throughout the cold war.

He said voters had recognised him as independent-minded and has vowed to travel widely round the vast but sparsely-populated country to stay in touch with the people.

"I want to maintain this contact because I sense that somehow people felt they had lost the capacity to influence the events in this country," he has said.

Son of former president wins Costa Rican election

SAN JOSE (R) — The son of the founder of modern democratic Costa Rica won Sunday's presidential election.

With more than 80 per cent of the vote counted, Jose Maria Figueres led ruling party candidate Miguel Angel Rodriguez by 49.7 per cent to 47.5 per cent.

"The soul of our campaign was the strength of the people, and with that we won the elections," Mr. Figueres declared.

Mr. Rodriguez conceded defeat earlier in the evening. The two candidates were running neck and neck when early returns began coming in.

"The people have spoken and we have to accept their decision, so with joy and affection I have come to accept the decision of the people and wish Mr. Figueres success," Mr. Rodriguez said.

Mr. Figueres, 39, leader of the National Liberation Party, said social justice would be the hallmark of his government.

Addressing thousands of

supporters at an outdoor rally, Mr. Figueres said his victory marked a rejection of "trickle-down" economic policies of the government of the Social Christian Unity Party.

"We are going to... put the country on the road to progress with social justice," he said.

Mr. Figueres will succeed President Rafael Angel Calderon, who leaves office on May 8 after a four-year term. The constitution barred Mr. Calderon from seeking a second term.

Mr. Figueres is the son of late former President Jose "pepe" Figueres, the founder of modern democratic Costa Rica.

The younger Figueres, a former agriculture minister, vowed to give the government a greater role in the country's social development after more than a decade of free-market economics.

"I come to reaffirm that we will govern for those who have the least and need the most," he said.

French Socialists start recovery

PARIS (AFP) — France's opposition Socialist Party made the beginnings of a recovery, winning two out of three by-elections against candidates of the right and scoring a closely-fought victory in a Paris constituency.

Socialist leader Michel Rocard called the results in Sunday's polls a sign of the party's "recovery" after its defeat in legislative elections in March 1993. The three by-elections were called after France's Constitutional Council annulled last March's results for campaign overspending, making the winners ineligible for a year.

In spite of high abstention rates, the Socialist candidate in Paris, Daniel Vaillant, scored a convincing victory with 53.6 per cent of the vote, winning the seat back from the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF) in a working class

His success was all the more remarkable after right-wing leaders, including Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) leader Jacques Chirac, turned out to support Anne-Marie Pierre-Bloch, wife of the invalidated UDF-MP.

In the Loire Valley constituency of Blois, the outcome was more a demonstration of the continuing popularity of the city's mayor, former Socialist Culture Minister Jack Lang.

He said voters had recognised him as independent-minded and has vowed to travel widely round the vast but sparsely-populated country to stay in touch with the people.

"I want to maintain this contact because I sense that somehow people felt they had lost the capacity to influence the events in this country," he has said.

"It is important that we support a democratic process in Russia, it is important that

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"We are going to... put the country on the road to progress with social justice," he said.

Mr. Figueres will succeed President Rafael Angel Calderon, who leaves office on May 8 after a four-year term. The constitution barred Mr. Calderon from seeking a second term.

Mr. Figueres is the son of late former President Jose "pepe" Figueres, the founder of modern democratic Costa Rica.

The younger Figueres, a former agriculture minister, vowed to give the government a greater role in the country's social development after more than a decade of free-market economics.

"I come to reaffirm that we will govern for those who have the least and need the most," he said.

Addressing thousands of

Cyclone kills 43 in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO (R) — At least 43 people were killed and dozens more seriously injured when the "cyclone of the century" swept over the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar last week, the Interior Minister said Monday.

Charles Clement Severin told reporters a further 500,000 people were made homeless by "Gerald" which destroyed up to 70 per cent of the impoverished island's rice fields, uprooted trees and destroyed flimsy shelters.

"Gerald", which raced across the Indian Ocean, first hit Madagascar last Wednesday. It sank seven ships and destroyed 95 per cent of the main commercial port of Toamasina on the east coast, officials said.

BURUARY 8, 1994

Goldberg to host ceremony

Goldberg (R) — One of the most famous entertainers in the world, Goldberg will host the 1994 Winter Olympics ceremony in Lillehammer, Norway. The ceremony will be held on February 13, 1994, at the Frimannshaugen Amphitheatre. Goldberg will be joined by other celebrities, including Madonna, who will perform the opening song. The ceremony will be broadcast live on television and radio.

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Los Angeles Lakers George Lynch (left) and Vlade Divac (right) try to stop Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone as he drives to the basket Sunday. The Lakers beat the Jazz 107-90 (AFP photo)

Ewing leads Knicks past Magic

NEW YORK (R) — Patrick Ewing had 32 points and Charles Oakley added 13 points and 21 rebounds to spark the New York Knicks to a 95-77 victory over the Orlando Magic late Sunday.

The Knicks won for the seventh time in their last eight games.

Orlando, held to its fewest points this season, has lost three straight for the first time of the season. Shaquille O'Neal had 22 points for the Magic, but was hampered with five fouls over the last 4-1-2 minutes.

In Washington, Chris Webber scored 26 points and Golden State held Washington to a franchise-low seven points in the fourth-quarter to propel the Warriors to a 106-84 victory over the Bulls.

Latrell Sprewell added 23 points for the Warriors and Billy Owens scored 20.

Webber, Sprewell and Owens scored four points apiece in a 12-point run that extended Golden State's lead to 102-83 with 2:15 left.

In Los Angeles, Reggie Jordan, who had only scored two points this season coming into the game, totalled 28 to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 107-90 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Jordan, playing in his fifth game, had only seen 11 minutes of action before helping the Lakers win for the 36th time in 43 games against the Jazz in Los Angeles.

At New Jersey, David Robinson scored 36 points, including two free throws with 4.1 seconds left in overtime that gave the San Antonio Spurs their seventh straight win, 104-102 over the New Jersey Nets.

Willie Anderson added 18 points for the Spurs, who have won 18 of their last 21 games. Derriek Coleman had 28 points and 14 rebounds and Kenny Anderson added 26 points and 12 assists for the Nets, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

In Denver, Laphonso Ellis scored 21 points and Rodney Rogers had 12 of his 20 points during a second quarter run to lead the Denver Nuggets to a

99-89 triumph over the Dallas Mavericks in a game that was not as close as the final score might indicate.

Denver led 25-20, early in the second quarter before embarking on an 18-8 run that was led by Rogers' 12 points.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 25 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and blocked eight shots to propel the Houston Rockets to a 101-90 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Otis Thorpe added 19 points and also dominated on the boards with 17 rebounds as the Rockets won their third game without a defeat against the Timberwolves this season.

In Phoenix, Kevin Johnson returned from the chicken pox to score 22 points and Chicago's Scottie Pippen missed an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer to give the Phoenix Suns an 89-88 victory over the Bulls.

Pippen scored a game-high 26 points but missed everything on his desperation shot at the buzzer as Chicago had a four-game winning streak broken.

Lillehammer plans solidarity day for besieged Bosnian capital

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Lillehammer plans a day of solidarity with the people of the besieged Bosnian capital for Sarajevo Tuesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Winter Olympics there.

Mayor Audun Tron, whose town hosts the 1994 games, will sign a special book for messages to Sarajevo and invite others to add their names to the peace appeal in the main square, Lillehammer Olympic aid spokeswoman Nita Kapoor said Monday.

The Lillehammer Olympic Aid Organisation is collecting money for Sarajevo to mark the 10th anniversary and also for young people in Guatemala, Eritrea, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

On Saturday, 68 people were killed in a mortar attack on a Sarajevo market and nearly 200 were wounded in the worst single incident in

Bosnia's 22-month civil war. Kapoor said the solidarity day had been arranged Friday.

"What happened at the weekend makes it all the more necessary," she said. "I think that such an appeal is very appropriate."

Organisers plan to light candles in the shape of the five interlocking Olympic rings and to keep them burning until Tuesday evening.

The book will be handed to the mayor of Sarajevo when he arrives to attend the Lillehammer Games, which open Saturday.

"It will be very simple and a very symbolic act," Kapoor said of the solidarity day for Sarajevo.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to arrange a truce in Bosnia for the duration of the Lillehammer Games.

The Sarajevo games began

Feb. 8, 1984 and were the first Winter Olympics to be held in Eastern Europe. Forty-nine countries attended.

At that time, Sarajevo's main claim to fame was that it was the city where Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914, sparking World War I.

Now few have heard of the bloodshed in the Bosnian capital and the whole of the former Yugoslav republic.

Lillehammer Olympic aid, which is backed by the games organisers and other Norwegian bodies, has already raised more than 40 million crowns (\$5.3 million). Of that, 27 million crowns (\$3.6 million) have already been spent on food, medicines and a hospital unit for Sarajevo.

The fund-raising campaign began at the Barcelona summer games in 1992 when Lillehammer was passed the Olympic torch.

Thais win Asian crown

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thai Farmers Bank downed Oman Club of Oman 2-1 Monday night to take the Asian Club Soccer Championship.

Earlier, Japanese champions Yomiuri Verdy salvaged a third-place finish, beating China's Liaoning 4-1 in the consolation playoff.

The Thais scored the opening goal only three minutes into the match after Thawan Thammayai rifled home a cross from Sason Pobprasert.

Thirteen minutes later Sing Totavee scored on a lob over Oman goalkeeper Yousuf Obaid after hard-working Worrawudh Srimakha split the offside trap with a devious cross.

In the 44th minute, the Omanis scored on a set play when Ebrahim Ali's corner

kick found Zahir Salim whose strong header to the far post eluded Thai goalkeeper Nipon Malanont.

With the Omanis taking the initiative in the second half, the Thais chose to foul their way out of trouble as they also did in the semifinal victory against Yomiuri.

Referee Ali Bujasim handed out five yellow cards.

In the consolation match, two first-half goals from young prospect Shingi Ono set Yomiuri on its way to a sorely needed victory. Yomiuri lost 3-1 in extra time to Thai Farmers Bank in Saturday's semifinal.

Yomiuri extended its lead in the second half with a goal in the 65th minute by Toshimi Kikuchi in a messy attack initiated by a long searching cross from Ono.

Furlan beats Chang in final of San Jose Open

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Renzo Furlan, his game becoming more daring as the match wore on, upset Michael Chang 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 Sunday night to win the San Jose Open, his first title on the tour.

"I'm in the sky right now," said Furlan, the No. 6 seed from Italy. "I can't believe I won."

Furlan, ranked 69th in the world, knocked off the top seed after defeating the No. 2 seed Richey Reneberg on Saturday. He earned \$42,000 for the victory over the world's ninth-ranked player.

"I was nervous at first, playing Michael Chang in a championship match and all," Furlan said. "Nothing was working. But I started feeling more comfortable in the second set and did a better job of coming to the net."

In the second set, he broke Chang three times. Furlan went up 2-0 in the final set before Chang broke in the third game.

Chang was at break point in the 11th game, but Furlan

fought back to lead 6-5. In the deciding game, Furlan was up 30-0 and 40-30. Chang rallied to twice hold the advantage, but went no further. He committed an unforced error and then double-faulted. Furlan won when Chang's return went wide.

"It was a good week but a frustrating day," said Chang, who earned \$24,150. "I found that I really need to work on my conditioning. I didn't expect to play back-to-back three-hour matches."

Chang of Henderson, Nevada, defeated Furlan last year in their only previous meeting.

"He changed tactics after the first set," Chang said. "He started serving and volleying more, and it threw me off some. He picked my serve pretty well, too, and I didn't handle his well, even though his first serve often wasn't that fast."

In the doubles final Sunday night, second-seeded Rick Leach and Jared Palmer upset top-seeded Bryon Black and Jonathan Stark, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.



Hassiba Boulmerka

Boulmerka wins invitational mile

FAIRFAX, Virginia (R) — Hassiba Boulmerka won her second indoor mile in three days Sunday, when a rival misjudged the finish line at an invitational athletics meeting.

Algeria's Boulmerka, the Olympic 1500-metre champion, who had never competed indoors before winning her first race in New York Friday, finished in 4 minutes, 28.64 seconds.

Suzi Hamilton of the United States led until the bell lap, but misjudged the finish and pulled up to finish third behind Boulmerka and Kathy Franey of the U.S.

"I felt really strong, and I think if I hadn't done what I did, I would have had a different strategy, maybe gone a little easier until the halfway point, then turned it on at the end," Hamilton said. "When I saw people whizz by me I said, 'Oh no, I can't believe what I just did.'"

In other events, Jamaica's Juliet Cuthbert used a strong start to beat Gwen Torrence of the U.S. in the women's 60 metres, finishing in 7.14 seconds.

Olympic heptathlon champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey of the U.S. finished fourth in the 60 metres, saying she was more concerned with sharpening her sprinting speed for the heptathlon than winning.

Gustafsson wins Dubai title

DUBAI (R) — Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden scored an upset victory over top seed Sergei Bruguera of Spain to win the \$1 million Dubai Open tennis tournament in straight sets late Sunday.

Gustafsson, seeded four, swept aside the strangely out-of-sorts Spaniard 6-4, 6-2 to pick up the \$144,000 winner's cheque.

And afterwards he revealed that his recent run of improved play could be the result of the transcendental meditation which he practices for 20 minutes, twice a day.

"I don't know if it is that," he said, "but these days I am certainly feeling full of energy and very relaxed."

Bruguera must have known it was not going to be his day after a lacklustre start which saw him quickly fall 4-1 behind in the opening set.

Gustafsson, who has started

1994 in excellent form winning in Auckland and reaching the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, executed an array of tremendous forehands which the French Open champion could not answer. "In one period of four games he won only one point."

Although Bruguera responded after Gustafsson let some points slip with double-faults and a few clumsy returns, the Sweden never lost the initiative.

The second set continued in much the same vein with Gustafsson cutting loose to win four straight games after the opening four games were evenly shared.

Bruguera had a chance to come back in the sixth game but frittered away two break points and instead of levelling at 3-3 he was trailing 2-4 and staring inevitable defeat in the face.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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NOT QUITE A STARRING LEAD

Neither vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ 2 7 10 3
♥ 8 7
♦ 4 5
♣ A Q J 6 4
EAST
♠ 5 4
♥ 9 8 5 3 2
♦ 9 8 7 3
♣ K 10 3 2
SOUTH
♠ A K 8 7 6 2
♥ Q 8 3
♦ K
♣ 9 8 7 5
The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1♠ 3♣
3♠ 5♣ 5♠ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: ?
When a player underleads an ace at the opening gun and it works, it is a sign for the mills of bridge columnists. When it does not... On this hand from the 1992 World Team Olympiad, some of the game's best players wound up with egg on their faces.
A competitive auction led to contracts of four and five spades around the room. Where North-South were pushed to the five level, many Wests, anxious for a club ruff, led a

DAVIS CUP ROUNDUP

Japan crushes China 5-0

JAPAN romped to a 5-0 victory over China in Davis Cup action Sunday while Taiwan came from 2-1 down to win the final two singles and oust Malaysia 3-2.

Their team already sure of advancing to the first round of Asia-Oceania Zone group 1, Japan's Shuzo Matsuo and Yusufumi Yamamoto won their best-of-three singles matches in straight sets at Beijing.

Matsuo downed Xia Jai Ping 6-4, 6-0 and Yamamoto beat a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Pan Bing.

Facing defeat before their own fans at Taichung, the

Taiwanese singles players Chih-Jung Chen and Yu-Hui Lien both gained straight-set victories to overturn Malaysia's lead in Asia-Oceania group II.

Chen edged Adam Malik in a closely-fought first set tie break and then went on to win 7-6 (8-6), 6-2, 6-4. Lien started impressively against Ramachandran Ramesh and overpowered the Malaysian 6-1, 7-5, 6-3.

On Saturday, the Malaysian pair teamed up to beat the Taiwanese in doubles play. The matches were among 12 regional qualifying contests.

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Blood tests at games may not prove much

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Blood tests to be introduced at the Winter Games may be of limited value, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical chief has said.

Prince Alexandre de Merode said the tests, part of the campaign to combat the growing problem of doping in sport, would only be able to detect athletes who have taken blood transfusions from a third party.

"They will not prove very much," he said after briefing the IOC's executive board on the tests. "I don't think anybody is doing that but you never know."

"If you don't test, you won't find out. Anyway, this is a first step only."

De Merode said just under 200 tests would be carried out in Lillehammer where the games start Saturday and that no competitor would be asked

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<p>TODAY</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Moir Kelly — in The Cutting Edge</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>Special show for children on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m.</p> <p>Bugs Bunny Film</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>Mahmoud Hemideh/Laila Alawi in OBEDIENCE WARNING</p> <p>Arabic</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1" DOC HOLLYWOOD</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2" FALLING DOWN</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15</p> <p>F16H10L10Arabic Play "Hi America" at 8:30</p>	<p>Tel.: 675571</p> <p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</p> <p>presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron</p> <p>A popular political comedy Actors: Abser Issa, Daoud Jalal, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 6251557</p> <p>AHLAN THEATRE</p> <p>Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play)</p> <p>daily at 8:30 p.m. Theatre is closed Mondays and Tuesdays</p>
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait reopens air base destroyed in war

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait on Monday reopened the second of its two air bases after repairing extensive damages inflicted on it by Iraq. Brigadier General Salwa Al-Jaber, commander of the air force, told the Associated Press the first phase of repairs on Ahmad Al Jaber base has cost the government \$100 million. He would not say how much more was needed to complete the job. The base, 75 kilometres west of Kuwait City, was 95 per cent destroyed during the Gulf war. The emirate reopened its only other base, Ali Al Salem, Jan. 17 to mark the third anniversary of the U.S.-led coalition's air campaign to free Kuwait from Iraqi troops. Gen. Salwa said the air force also will keep a base it has been using at the international airport since liberation. Kuwait has earmarked \$12 billion to spend in the next decade on rebuilding and strengthening its small military which was devastated by the occupation and the Gulf war. But the plan has yet to be sanctioned by parliament.

Israeli archaeologists find sunken treasure

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli archaeologists have found a sunken treasure of 2,000-year-old Greek coins off the coast of northern Israel, the antiquities authority said on Monday. More than 4,000 silver coins bearing the likeness of the Greek Emperor Ptolemy VI were found. The authority said the coins, weighing a total of more than 40 kilograms, went down with one of the merchant ships that sailed the Eastern Mediterranean in the first and second centuries BC. The coins were minted around the year 145 BC. Yaacov Sharvit, who led the underwater archaeological team, said he believes the coins were being transported from Egypt northwards, either to buy slaves or to pay soldiers' wages.

Another \$35m for Jewish settlers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government has decided to pour another \$35 million into Jewish settlements on occupied territory to improve security, settlers' leaders announced Monday. Reserve army General Yossef Koller, security chief for the West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements where some 120,000 Israelis live, said the decision was taken because the communities were now "on the frontline." Among the improvements would be the setting up of "distress centres" to which all settler cars would be linked by a red alert button in event of attack.

Iraqi train hits bus; 27 die, driver survives

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A train slammed into a packed bus on a level crossing just south of here at the weekend, killing 27 passengers and injuring 10 others, the Defence Ministry daily reported Monday. The bus driver miraculously survived as his vehicle was sliced in two by the train which was heading for Baghdad from the southern city of Basra on Saturday night. The line between Basra and Baghdad was closed Sunday because of the accident, which happened 35 kilometres south of here, said the newspaper, Al Qadisiyah. Several of the injured were in serious condition.

Rafsanjani opens artillery factory

TEHRAN (AFP) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani opened an artillery factory in the Iranian capital on Monday, the official news agency IRNA reported. The factory builds 122-millimetre artillery guns, which have a range of 22 kilometres and can fire six or seven shells per minute, it said. Defence Minister Mohammad Eghbafchi and other military officials accompanied Mr. Rafsanjani during his visit.

Tunisian rights group chooses leaders

TUNIS (R) — A congress of Tunisia's Human Rights League (LTDH), one of the most active human rights groups in North Africa, chose a more moderate, government-backed leadership Monday. The congress decided with a narrow majority to abide by a 1992 law requiring it to open its membership to anyone who would like to join, though continue contesting it. The league's public campaign against human rights abuses in Tunisia in recent years brought it into conflict with the government which accused some of its leaders of using it for political goals. The new 25-member leadership includes 12 independents, a few representatives from the ruling and legal opposition parties and also two "progressive Islamists." The government is widely seen as having backed the winning list against the previous leadership which was dominated by independent, liberal and leftist figures and some prominent members of opposition parties.

Israel to show new missile in Singapore

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel will present a new version of the Popeye air-to-surface missile at the Asian Aerospace Exhibition in Singapore this month, officials at the state-run Israeli Aircraft Industries said Monday. The Popeye II is a lighter, cheaper and smaller missile than the first model, which went into service with the Israeli and U.S. air forces nine years ago. The new weapon was successfully test fired from an F-16C fighter in December, the officials said. It costs \$300,000 — \$150,000 less than the old Popeye, for which total sales reached \$200 million. Israel Aircraft Industries and the U.S. firm Martin Marietta manufacture the Popeye jointly.

Child killed in landmine blast in Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — A 10-year-old girl was killed and three other children wounded in a landmine explosion in South Lebanon on Monday, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers here said. Inaya Sultan was playing with her brothers and sisters at the time, in a field near her home in Sawwane, a village bordering on Israel's self-declared "security zone," east of the port of Tyre. One of her brothers, three-year-old Khalil, was seriously wounded. It was not immediately clear whether the landmine had been left behind after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon or placed there recently. Soldiers serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are deployed in Sawwane.

Paraglider remanded for a week

LONDON (R) — An American who paraglided onto the roof of Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace in a bizarre stunt, which raised fresh concerns about royal security, was remanded in custody for a week on Monday, court officials said. James Miller, 30, who paraglided into the ring at a Las Vegas hotel complex during a world heavyweight boxing title fight last November, was arrested within minutes of stripping naked on the palace roof in freezing weather on Saturday. Mr. Miller, whose middle name was given as Farnham and his address as Nevada, stated ahead during the three-minute hearing in which he faced one public order offence and five aviation offences. Eyewitnesses said that after Mr. Miller landed he threw off all his clothes to reveal his naked body painted green below the waist, ran to the front of the palace and gave a clenched fist victory salute.

Man threatens to freeze Siberian city

MOSCOW (AP) — A man who threatened to blow up a Siberian city's heating plants and freeze its citizens was arrested after police decided his extortion attempt was a bluff, authorities said Monday. Last Friday, the man demanded \$500,000 in U.S. cash and 500 million rubles, worth an additional \$320,000 at current exchange rates, to leave the city of Yakutsk in peace. He claimed to represent a gang called Vozmezhdie (revenge) and said bombs had been planted at vital facilities across the city of 200,000 people, including its central heating plants, amid sub-zero temperatures.

Vietnam hands over 12 MIA remains

HANOI (AP) — Four days after the United States lifted a 19-year economic embargo against Vietnam, Hanoi on Monday turned over what are believed to be the remains of 12 Americans lost in the Vietnam war.

U.S. officials said that the ceremony at Hanoi's Noi Bai international airport had been planned weeks before the lifting of the embargo and that the timing was a coincidence. There have been similar ceremonies about every two months in the past.

Just the same, this one took on added significance since President Bill Clinton had made the lifting of the embargo contingent on Hanoi's cooperation and progress in the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing in action (MIA).

Veteran groups and families of those missing in action had strongly opposed the end of the embargo, saying the United States would lose its leverage in forcing Vietnam to cooperate in accounting for 2,238 American MIAs.

But the United States withheld some carrots, the biggest of which is the restoration of diplomatic ties, broken when communist North Vietnam took over the U.S.-backed south in April 1975.

The U.S. also did not immediately grant Hanoi most favoured nation trade status, which would lower tariffs on Vietnamese imports.

Vietnam is now pushing for diplomatic recognition. Just after President Clinton announced the end of the economic sanctions, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai called a news conference in Hanoi and pledged that Vietnam would continue cooperating in trying to resolve the cases of those Americans still unaccounted for.

Sanctions work in Iraq — but only on the poor

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — Faced with an unprecedented devaluation of the Iraqi dinar, coupled with a growing inflation of even the most basic food items, the people of Baghdad have taken to the streets to sell off what remains of their worldly goods in order to make ends meet.

Washing machines, tea sets and even plasticware are peddled every Friday at Baghdad's main auction house.

Once the site where valuable antiques and Persian carpets found their way into wealthy homes, the auction house has become the hub for impoverished men, women and children who come to hawk all but the clothes on their backs.

Massive crowds come to buy and sell goods every Friday, auction house official Masoud Saleem says. "Most people are selling these days and buyers are less than before but there is nevertheless a turnover."

Carpenters, electricians and mechanics in particular are buyers of second-hand machines and electronic equipment as well as used furniture to serve as a source of spare parts that are no longer available in Iraq.

The plunge in the value of the Iraqi dinar, which hovers between 170 and 250 to the U.S. dollar, has soared the prices of foodstuffs and other basic life-supporting goods.

The average government employee whose pre-August 1990 earning was the equivalent of \$300-\$350 (\$200 Iraqi dinars) now earns less than \$5 (or 600 Iraqi dinars).

While some basic foodstuff items, including sugar, rice and wheat, continue to be partially subsidised by the government, Iraqis need to shop for all their fruits, vegetables and meat in the free market.

A kilo of tomatoes which sold for 0.15 dinars before the war now costs 15 dinars. The same is true for almost all other produce. Milk products, sweets and meat are hardly seen in the average Baghdad home.

"The middle class can hardly afford bread, rice and some vegetables," says Dr.



Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz (third from right) and German Ambassador Heinrich Reimers Monday sign agreements on German aid and loans to Jordan (AFP photo)

Germany to provide JD 33m in loans, aid

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany will provide Jordan with DM 82.6 million marks (JD 33 million) soft loans and grants to help finance a number of development projects in the Kingdom, under the terms of two financial agreements and two memoranda signed by the two sides in Amman Monday.

Under the first agreement, Germany will give Jordan DM 76.39 million (JD 30.5 million) in soft loans to help finance a sewerage project in Irbid. The project entails laying sewer networks and installing two waste-water treatment plants to serve the southern regions of Irbid and 15 nearby villages.

Under the second agreement, Germans will give Jordan a DM 2 million (JD 800,000) to help finance a water project in the Amman region and will also provide consultancy services for the project.

Two subsequent agreements were signed with the German development bank, which will handle the grant and the loan.

The first of the two memoranda provides for

Germany to grant Jordan DM 2.7 million (JD 1.28 million) in technical assistance which entails training of hospital cadres for two years.

This project will be carried out in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

The trainees will be oriented in maintaining hospital equipment which will be provided by Germany.

The second memorandum provides for Germany to spend DM 1.8 million (JD 720,000) on an extension programme for training personnel in the field of renewable energy which is being implemented by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

Under the two-year programme, Germany will help Jordan develop the manufacture of solar heaters and will set up a laboratory and help the RSS improve solar and wind energy generation.

The agreements were signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers.

Juppe scheduled to visit Jordan Feb. 12

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is scheduled to pay a 24-hour visit to Amman next week to complete discussions with Jordanian leaders on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations, diplomatic sources said Monday.

It will be the second visit of Mr. Juppe since November, the sources noted. During that visit, Mr. Juppe spent only a few hours in Amman and did not have enough time for a detailed exchange of views with Jordanian leaders and hence the return visit, the sources added.

Mr. Juppe is anxious to have more detailed discussions with the Jordanian leadership on the regional peace negotiations as well as Jordanian-French relations," said one of the sources.

Mr. Juppe is scheduled to arrive on Feb. 12 afternoon and leave the following day's evening, the source said.

The French minister hopes to be received by His Majesty King Hussein in addition to his scheduled meetings with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials, the source said.

On the table for discussions will be "economic and technical cooperation" between Jordan and France as well as the Kingdom's estimated \$900 million debt to France, the source said.

"Preparations for a meeting of the Paris Club (of creditor governments) will also be discussed," said the source, referring to the next round of Jordan's talks with the group on rescheduling part of the Kingdom's \$6.8 billion foreign debt.

France has been supportive

of Amman's endeavours to reschedule its debts and has backed the Kingdom at various international forums.

Following his Nov. 17 talks with King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Amman, Mr. Juppe said he found Jordan ready and willing to launch regional economic cooperation as part of the peace process.

He said he appreciated the Jordanian approach and pledged that his country would continue its contribution to the workings of the multilateral phase of the peace process.

France-Jordanian cooperation in the international scene will also be discussed during Mr. Juppe's forthcoming visit, the diplomatic source said.

"Various international issues, particularly the conflict in Bosnia, will also be discussed in detail," said the source, noting that the recent escalation of violence in former Yugoslavia needed a concerted approach.

France has been calling for expanding the mandate of the U.N. forces in former Yugoslavia to include the use of force to stop the fighting there.

Mr. Juppe will head for Israel from Jordan for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other Israeli leaders for discussions on the 28-month-old Middle East peace negotiations.

He will also meet with Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for discussions that would include French help to support the implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Ekeus: Two more months to destroy Iraq chemicals

KUWAIT (AP) — The leader of a U.N. mission probing Iraq's military capabilities said Monday he was satisfied with the progress made towards eliminating most of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

But the U.N. special commission's chief, Rolf Ekeus, said the inspectors needed at least two more months to totally eliminate Iraq's stock of chemical weapons and the capability to produce them.

Mr. Ekeus spoke to reporters at the end of a two-day visit to Kuwait. He came here after a trip to Iraq to install a long-term monitoring system of Iraqi weapons production sites.

"We have a satisfactory feeling that most of Iraq's capabilities have now been identified and eliminated," said Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat.

He said his commission was "confident that all the long-range missiles which remained after the Gulf war have been accounted for and destroyed."

The U.N. Special commission has been supervising the destruction of Iraqi stores of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as ballistic missiles under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire.

A stifling trade embargo imposed against Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait cannot be lifted until Mr. Ekeus certifies to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq has fulfilled its ceasefire obligations.

After resuming for two years, Iraq only in November accepted U.N. Resolution 715, which commits it to the long-term weapons monitoring plan.

Suspects reenact bungled attempt to murder Sedki

CAIRO (AP) — Radicals managed to set off a car bomb near Prime Minister Atef Sedki only after a series of bungles and small bribes to a corrupt policeman, prosecution evidence showed Monday.

Prosecutors showed a videotaped reenactment of the crime at the military court trial of 15 suspected extremists charged with trying to kill Dr. Sedki last November.

Two defendants, Sayed Suleiman and Essam Mohammad Touni, were shown as they traced their misadventures with a rattletrap car and traffic police before the bomb was detonated, Mr. Sedki escaped injury in the blast, but an 11-year-old girl was killed.

The defendants, six of whom are at large and being tried in absentia, face death penalties. Security authorities have barred foreign reporters from covering the trial but allowed Egyptian journalists to supply reports.

According to the tape, a traffic policeman stopped the men as they drove into Cairo because their car was old and battered. When he asked for car papers, they offered a 100-Egyptian pound (\$30) bribe. He accepted but still demanded proof of ownership.

They agreed to find the previous owner, but by the time they returned the policeman had taken the car for a joy ride. He came back four hours later, accepted another 30

pounds (\$8) and let them go.

There was no mention in the video of Sayed Ahmad Yehia, the auto broker who sold the car to Mr. Suleiman. He was to have been a witness at the trial but was killed by suspected militants Friday (see page 2).

In the reenactment, Mr. Suleiman and Mr. Touni explained how they met with colleague Ahmad Ismail Othman the morning after they finally made it into Cairo.

After making sure the car explosive was rigged, the men took up positions along Mr. Sedki's usual route from his house, aiming to trigger the bomb as his convoy passed.

Mr. Othman, who is at large, was to be the lookout man and signal Mr. Suleiman to push the button. But he was chased away by a policeman suspicious of his lurking in the area.

When Mr. Touni arrived as the second lookout, Dr. Sedki's convoy was already underway. He gave the signal too late, and the bomb missed its target. But the blast outside a school killed the 11-year-old student.

The tape also showed Mr. Suleiman and Mr. Touni explaining how they got instructions from a man identified only as Ahmad in a telephone call from Yemen. Egypt has recently coordinated efforts with Yemen to detain suspected Egyptian militants hiding there.

COLUMN

Psst, EU wants employees to keep more secrets

BRUSSELS (AP) — Psst! want to know a secret? The European Union (EU) is trying to keep more of them, and some Eurocrats aren't too happy about it. The Union — the European Community's new name — is taking its first, tentative steps toward creating a common foreign and security policy among its dozen members. And it has decided that just like any government, it doesn't want employees blabbing sensitive information. So, officials have come up with a plan to stamp classified documents: "Top secret," "secret," "confidential" or "restricted."

They are also demanding security clearances for about 370 of the 2,200 bureaucrats who work for the Council of Ministers, the most influential of the many EU institutions. The secrecy proposal was prepared after the group's new treaty on European Union went into effect last November. Under the treaty, the nations will forge common foreign, security and, eventually, defence policies. They also promised better coordination in fighting terrorism and illegal drug trafficking. Under current rules, the distribution of documents can be limited, although the tendency in recent years has been to get away from restrictions. Officials argue that secrecy is needed to protect sensitive information now that the union is tackling more foreign and security issues. But council employees fear this may arbitrarily and unnecessarily restrict information. Definitions for classifying documents were so vague they would "open the door to all kinds of dangerous manipulations," of information, said Gunther Lorenz, vice president of an EU employees' committee. He told a recent news conference that politicians could be protected from public criticism under the proposed rules.

Senator goes on trial for official misconduct

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Just months after a landslide victory, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison will stand trial on criminal charges of misusing her former office of state treasurer and then trying to cover it up. Facing the possibility of conviction and imprisonment, Mrs. Hutchison, a rising Republican star, has denied doing anything wrong "legally, morally, or ethically."

She says she is a victim of Democrats who fear and resent her success. In four indictments, prosecutors from the Travis County district attorney's office say the real victims are state taxpayers cheated by Mrs. Hutchison. Mrs. Hutchison has been charged with using tax dollars for her personal and political gain when she was treasurer, a position she held from January 1991 to June 1993. Prosecutors say she ran political operations out of the treasury, using state employees and state computers on state time. When investigators learned of it, they say, she started changing permanent computer records to hide evidence. The indictments charge her with two felony counts and one misdemeanor count of official misconduct, and felony counts of tampering with a government record and tampering with physical evidence. Since the alleged offenses are being tried together, prosecutors say Mrs. Hutchison, if convicted on all counts, could face up to 20 years in prison. "This case is not about politics," said First Assistant District Attorney Steve McCleery. "This case is about ethics and honesty in government. It is not a politically motivated case. As the evidence comes out in trial, that will be apparent."

Vienna blackmailer threatens to poison sweets

VIENNA (AFP) — An Austrian blackmailer has threatened to leave poisoned sweets in play areas of the capital, Vienna, if he does not receive a huge ransom, officials said Sunday. The blackmailer, who made his threat via the mass-circulation newspaper Kronenzeitung, was reportedly targeting a specific supermarket group. Viennese authorities announced they would be carefully monitoring the city's parks and had already warned people not to eat any sweets found there.